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ALFONSIN OFFICIALLY REPEALS AMNESTY LAW

PY282101 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Buenos Aires, (DYN-NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin last night sanctioned the repeal of the former military regime's so-called National Pacification Law, or amnesty law, which exempted military and police personnel from trial for their participation in the illegal repression of subversive activities.

The new law -- the first to be signed by the new president -- says the amnesty granted in September under the administration of former President Reynaldo Bignone "lacks legal effect for the trial of criminal, civil, administrative, and military offences arising from repressive and terrorist activities."

The enactment of the law, also signed by Education and Justice Minister Carlos Alconada Aramburu specifies that the principle of the more lenient law established in Article 2 of the Criminal Code, will not be applicable to the repealed law.

The new law, which bears the number 23,040, furthermore sets forth that "any person who may have recovered his freedom as a result of de facto law 22,924 (the amnesty law) is to appear before the competent court within five days after this law is promulgated."

Should any such person fail to appear, the law continues, "he will be declared a fugitive from justice and his arrest will be ordered, wothout need for a prior summons."

Any civilian tried by a military court and having benefitted from the amnesty law will be entitled to object to the trial simultaneously with his appearance before the court.

Finally, the law establishes that those to whom the benefits of the amnesty may have been granted while the law was in force may be exempted from prison or granted bail during trial proceedings.

ARMY CHIEF ON AMNESTY, COMPULSORY SERVICE

PY282333 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1712 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Cordoba, 28 Dec (NA) -- Today Army Chief of Staff Brigadier General Jorge Arguindegui said that "in the new process underway in the country, the Argentine Army supports democracy."

The high-ranking officer talked to the press at the Cordoba airport upon his arrival, shortly before noon, to install the new commander of the III Corps, headquartered at the local garrison.

General Arguindegui said that "the executive branch, as it should be, has the responsibility of determining the general guidelines under which the Army and the other forces must be structured in order for the Army to truly become operational and be separated from the political problems that have caused us to be so worn down."

Regarding the eventual approval of a law modifying the current system of the compulsory military service, Arguindegui said that this matter is under study, "but it should not be forgotten that there is now a joint chief of staff and a Defense Ministry which operate on their own."

He said: "Specifically, whether the number of enlisted men under compulsory military service is reduced or not will not affect the Army because this force has other means of operation."

Regarding the accusations being made against high-ranking commanders and officers of the Army, Gen Arguindegui said: "I insist that we are now in a democratic country. Now it is up to the officials elected by the people to determine what will happen to the generals, former presidents, and former members of the military junta, officers who have already been placed, by a decree, at the disposal fo the Armed Forces Supreme Council."

Regarding the annulment of the so-called "amnesty law," he said that "the impression in the Army, from the beginning was that it would eventually be annulled. Therefore it was not a surprise."

Arguindegui denied that a decision was made to transfer, for the time being, the headquarters of the III Corps from Cordoba to Pampa Province.

FURTHER ON EXHUMATION OF BODIES FROM MASS GRAVES

PY282330 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA-DYN) -- Fourteen "NN" (no name) corpses were exhumed from mass graves in Moreno yesterday, bringing this week's total to 29, while people in two other towns have reported that there might be more illegally buried NN's in their respective cemeteries.

Seven grave-diggers working under the supervision of Merlo Judge Jorge Lombardi at the Moreno cemetery, 40 kilometres west of Buenos Aires, spent the entire day digging up mass graves to search for and disinter unidentified human remains reportedly buried there during the early days of the former military regime. They are to continue their task today to try to find another six bodies, the judge said.

The court investigation was begun after Juan Antonic Aleman and Carlos Arana reported last week that about 25 NN corpses had been illegally buried in the northwestern portion of the cemetery between 1976 and 1978.

Judge Lombardi said seven of the bodies had been unburied and identified in October of 1976 on the orders of a Lomas de Zamora judge surnamed Camino.

Meanwhile, in the Buenos Aires district of Florencio Varela, Radical city councilman and former volunteer fireman Ruben Oscar Bagliani said there are no less than 30 NN corpses, belonging to people who were killed by "clandestine firing squads," buried in the local cemetery. He said that as a fireman, he had participated in collecting the bodies -- which were strewn throughout the city's streets, with hands tied behind their backs, large-calibre bullet wounds, and hoods over their heads -- and burying them at the cemetery "on the orders of the police."

Bagliani submitted his report to the provincial legislature, which later turned it over to Criminal Judge Pablo Peralta Calvo. In the southern Santa Fe town of Casilda, court sources said that a probe into the disappearance of Miriam Moro, a Justicialist Party member who disappeared in September, 1976 together with Antonio Angel Lopez, had led investigators to discover that there may be over ten NN corpses buried in the local cemetery. During the investigation, which turned up Moro's remains at an unidentified grave in the cemetery, the court reportedly found a notebook with records of all such burials.

In a separate development, the unidentified remains of 15 people disinterred in Rafael Calzada on Monday were taken to the federal capital morgue for full identification. Speaking at a press conference yesterday morning, Calzada Mayor Felix Flores said that the hands of 14 of the corpses had been "amputated to aviod identification." He added that "several of the remains belonged to young women, and besides the bullet holes, there are signs that they were beaten before their death." Flores, who was present on Monday when the remains were disinterred under the supervision of Federal Judge Julio Piaggio, said that "we saw there were several illegal mass graves," adding that he believes there may be at least another 60 or 70 unidentified corpses in the local cemetery.

Havana Notes Discoveries

PA272124 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A common grave holding 10 bodies, including those of 3 children, was opened in the Almirante Brown neighborhood cemetery, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. The legal disinterment was carried out in the presence of the intendant and other local authorities The discovery of these corpses is to be added to the discovery of 24 more unidentified bodies in a cemetery in the community of Moreno, 50 km from Buenos Aires. It was reported that the exhumation of these 24 bodies would be carried out today.

BRIEFS

NEW NAVY COMMANDERS -- Bahia Blanca, 20 Dec (TELAM) --Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Ramon Antonio Arosa today presided over the ceremony installing the new commander of naval operations, Rear Admiral Jose Julio Sarcona. Rear Adm Sarcona is replacing Vice Admiral Rodolfo Antonio Remotti. Vice Adm Remotti previously installed the new commander of the fleet, Captain Gustavo Ricardo Grunschlager. Grunschlager is replacing Rear Admiral Eduardo Morris Girling. [Excerpts] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1455 GMT 20 Dec 83 PY]

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS -- Buenos Aires, 22 Dec (NA) -- The executive branch has issued various decrees appointing Public Health and Social Action Minister Aldo Neri as public health secretary, Osvaldo Vinistsky as general director of the Institutional Affairs Department of the General Secretariat of the Presidency, Richardo Prestein as general director of port constructions and navigable routes, Horacio Raul Meyer as general director of animal health, and Jorge Helios Moreno and Luis Andres Gludice as president and vice president, respectively, of the National Parks Administration's executive board. The executive branch also appointed engineer Hugo Kugler as interventor of the National Forestry Institute. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1314 GMT 22 Dec 83 PY]

MONTONERO LEADER REPORTEDLY IN SANTA CRUZ

PY291110 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The possible presence of Argentine Montonero guerrilla leader Mario Firmenich in Santa Cruz de la Sierra has caused notoriety. Neither national nor departmental authorities have denied the presence of Firmenich in this city.

Our correspondent (Felipe Carvi Montes) reports on this matter from Santa Cruz. [Begin (Montes) recording] The fact that government authorities have not yet denied the presence of Firmenich has increased rumors here in Santa Cruz that he could be enjoying the protection of some national authorities to remain in the country. According to what could be learned, Firmenich has been in the country for 4 months now, only awaiting the appropriate time to return to his country to engage in the political activity of the Argentine Justicialist Party. [end recording]

ARARAS MINEWORKERS TO BE EXPELLED TO BRAZIL

PY281645 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] A very serious report has been sent from Pando Department by Deputy Hernan Medeiros. In a radiogram addressed to President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Medeiros tells the president that he is conveying reports from mineworkers in the (Araras) goldmining district who have been notified by the Navy that they will have to leave Bolivia. These mineworkers will have to go to Brazil because of the claim of an unknown concessionaire that he owns this huge border region. This raises serious resettlement problems for more than 100 families residing in that area, where they undoubtedly ensure Bolivian sovereignty.

Deputy Hernan Medeiros states in his radiogram that all Bolivians have a right to choose where to live in Bolivia; for this reason he has advised the mineworkers to disregard the arbitrary decision and to stay put with their families until a government commission visits the area to hear the complaints of those who endure all kinds of hardships to live in that desolate border area, ensuring Bolivian sovereignty there.

Deputy Hernan Medeiros states that the mineworkers' report is extremely serious, since a school has been shut down and the teacher banished to Brazil. In addition, the malaria service personnel have not been allowed to perform their duties. Tools have been seized from the mineworkers, thus causing a very tense situation.

Medeiros says that the mineworkers are ready to defend their legitimate interests by all means. These mineworkers denounce the unfair influence exerted by the unknown concessionaire, who must have strong leverage among government officials to be able to have such arbitrary measures enforced.

BRIEFS

RADIO STATION RESUMES TRANSMISSIONS -- David Garcia, press and advertising secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers, reported that Radio Viloco will resume its transmissions today to pay homage to Mineworker's Day, which will be commemorated on 21 December. Radio Viloco was taken over by the military on 3 August 1980 following ex-General Garcia Meza's coup d'etat. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Dec 83 p 8 PY]

MILITARY COOPERATION WITH U.S. TO BE EXPANDED

PY281346 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Dec 83 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Brazil and the United States will expand military cooperation as of next year, even though the possibility of signing a new bilateral agreement, similar to that signed between the two countries in 1952 and terminated by the Brazilian Government in 1977, has been discarded.

Within the framework of the understanding which is being developed between the two governments, General Waldyr Vasconcelos, head of the Armed Forces Staff [EMFA], will visit the United States from 12 to 17 February at the invitation of the U.S. Government, extended to the EMFA chief by U.S. Military Attache General Clark Brintnal.

Gen Vasconcelos will continue the talks to be held in Brasilia in January between Secretary of State George Shultz and officials of Itamaraty, EMFA, and the ministries dealing with military affairs. The objective of these talks will be to organize the work groups, created in March 1983 at the suggestion of President Ronald Reagan, that will study the possibilities of cooperation in the fields of war material industry, nuclear energy, science and technology, aerospace activities, and economy and finance.

The rapprochement between the two countries, which began with the visit of President Reagan to Brazil last year, does not include the signing of a new agreement for expanded cooperation. Diplomatic and military authorities have often stated that no government is interested in a new cooperation agreement that includes impositions. What is important is effective and lasting cooperation that takes into account the interests of the two parties, whether in the military field specifically, or in the fields of industrial and economic cooperation.

In addition to increasing cooperation in personnel training, Brazil is interested in acquiring equipment and technology from the United States.

The Aeronautics Ministry wants to purchase UH-1H helicopters, which are currently being used by the U.S. Army. These helicopters, which the U.S. Army is replacing with modern SH-60 Sikorskiy helicopters, were manufactured by Bell, and would be very useful for the Brazilian Air Force, which currently owns 30 helicopters used for civilian activities, including the transport of gold from the gold fields to the Federal Savings Bank and services to PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation]. Since Bell has stopped manufacturing this type of helicopter, exclusive production for Brazil would increase the cost of each helocopter to $2 million. If they are purchased directly from the U.S. Army, the price would drop to less than $1 million. Brazil wants easy terms for such purchases.

The Brazilian Armed Forces also want to acquire technology in the field of arctic medicine to meet the needs of the Brazilian Antarctic project. In exchange, Brazil would provide technology in the field of tropical medicine. This subject was discussed during U.S. Air Force Secretary Werner Orr's visit to Brazil 2 months ago.

In the naval sector, the United States wants to hand over to Brazil several ships and a quality of equipment, and make available technology, for research in the Antarctic. There would be no need for a written agreement for this cooperation.

Regarding the Army, industrial-military cooperation would complement Brazilian technology in producing various types of military equipment without affecting the plans to nationalize the weapons industry or the goal of self-sufficiency in supplying weapons to the ground forces.

Cooperation in jungle warfare training is also in the interests of the United States, which is facing difficulties in fighting guerrilla movements in some Central American countries. Because of the increase in the number of troops in the Brazilian Armed forces and the need to modernize the equipment of these troops, on the basis of domestic production, cooperation between the two countries will probably be expanded next year. This is what military sources have asserted.

U.S. BUSINESS FAVORS CHAVES TO SUCCEED FIGUEIREDO

PY281656 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The major U.S. businessmen having dealings with Brazil regard Vice President Aureliano Chaves as the best candidate to succeed President Figueiredo. This was stated by Laerte Setubal, president of the Association of Brazilian Exporters, in Brasilia.

In explaining the grounds for this statement, Laerte Setubal stated that Aureliano Chaves can count on the support of most Brazilian businessmen, both middle class and major business figures, besides the support of the people.

Setubal said the invitation received by Chaves to visit the United States in March would not have been extended without the approval of the Council of Public Relations [name of organization given in English], which includes bankers such as David Rockefeller among its members.

BRIEFS

BNDES, SUDENE AGREEMENT -- (Jorge Luis Freire), chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Bank [BNDES] and the head of the Superintendency for Development of the Northeast [SUDENE] today signed a nonreimbursable financial cooperation contract for 7.5 billion cruzeiros. This sum will be used for the training of personnel and for the distribution of seed among producers in small rural areas and those northeastern areas affected by drought. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Dec 83 PY]

1983 RECORD OIL PRODUCTION -- PETROBRAS President Shigeaki Ueki emphasized the record oil production for 1983, which has reached 123 million barrels. Average daily production has totaled 336,000 barrels, an increase of 68,000 barrels as compared to that of 1982. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Dec 83 PY]

SUGARCANE PRODUCTION -- IAA [Sugar and Alcohol Institute] President Confucio Pamplona has reported that 220 million metric tons of sugarcane were produced in 1983, which represents a 45 percent increase as compared to 1982. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Dec 83 PY]

ATTACKS ON POWER PYLONS PROVOKE BLACKOUTS

PY290254 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0234 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 28 Dec (EFE) -- Several bombings of power pylons tonight left important sectors of the cities of Vina del Mar, Valparaiso, and Santiago in darkness.

The cut in the supply of electricity took place when some bombs exploded near the generator plant in Vina del Mar.

Two-thirds of the city of Valparaiso was affected by the blackout and remained in darkness for a long period of time.

This situation also affected several neighborhoods and communities of Santiago, where transmissions of several radio and television stations were suspended.

The Chilean Electric Company also reported that a failure in the electrical system of the Andean sector near this capital aggravated the problem.

Meanwhile, police and security services began investigations with specialized personnel of the electric company to try to pinpoint the sectors affected by the extremist attacks.

UK ENVOY ON ALLEGED UK-U.S.-CHILEAN AGREEMENT

PY281200 Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Dec (AFP) -- UK Ambassador to Chile John Hickman said today that a report published by an Argentine magazine regarding an alleged pact between Chile, Great Britain, and the United States is a ridiculous tale.

According to the magazine, within the framework of the pact, the three countries will conduct radio-electronic surveillance of Argentina and Brazil.

After meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, the British ambassador said that the press in many countries publishes all sorts of speculation. He added: This is the most ridiculous thing I can imagine.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND BOGOTA MEETING

PY281155 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 27 Dec (EFE) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle Alliende today accepted an invitation from his Colombian counterpart, Rodrigo Lloreda, to hold a meeting with Colombian and Bolivian representatives in Bogota.

The Chilean Foreign Minister thanked Lloreda for his invitation, saying that in extending the invitation, "the Colombian foreign minister was kind enough to explain that the offer of the Colombian Government is limited to seeking opportunities for dialogue and channels of understanding between Chile and Bolivia, while it is up to the two countries to directly solve bilateral issues."

The Chilean minister's note also stated that Chilean President Augusto Pinochet had sent a message to his Colombian counterpart, Belisario Betancur, accepting an invitation to the Chilean foreign minister to attend the meeting in Bogota.

In addition, the Chilean foreign minister expressed his best wishes for the prosperity and success of the Colombian people in 1984.

300,000 'ECONOMIC EXILES' EMIGRATE FROM COUNTRY

PY282335 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1626 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (EFE) -- Approximately 300,000 Chileans -- professionals, skilled workers, and workers in general -- had to emigrate from Chile into so-called "economic exile" because they could not find work in their own country.

This statement was made by Eduardo Rios, president of the Workers Democratic Union. He further said that if this figure is added to the number of workers who are unemployed, the number of unemployed totals 40 percent of a population of 11 million.

Rios, militant labor leader of the opposition, stated that 1983 has been a particularly bad year for Chile, which is experiencing a serious economic crisis. He added that thousands of Chileans who depend on their salaries are experiencing a very difficult economic situation, as their purchasing power has decreased by 56.6 percent.

He added that according to special studies, the high-income bracket increased its purchasing power by 15.56 percent.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER CITED ON POSSIBLE RETIREMENT

PY281817 Paris AFP in Spanish 1539 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 28 Dec (AFP) -- General Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force (FACH), today admitted the possibility that he might step down in 1986 for institutional reasons. The FACH requires younger commanders in chief, said Matthei, who is a member of the military junta headed by General Augusto Pinochet.

Matthei emphasized that this possibility does not mean that he disagrees with any of the decisions made by the government of which he is a member.

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL -- Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Krumm Rojas will be installed at 0930 today as the new under secretary general of government. The ceremony will be held in the Diego Portales building. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Dec 83 p C 2 PY]

NEW POLITICAL GROUP -- Santiago, 10 Dec (EFE) -- The "Christian Social Movement for Chile" [Movimiento Social Cristiano para Chile] was created today by 12 former members of the Christian Democratic Party. The group is headed by former Ambassador to Spain Juan de Dios Carmona and by ex-Minister William Thayer. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0522 GMT 11 Dec 83 PY]

BETANCUR TO KEEP HIGH OFFICIALS THROUGH 9 MARCH

PA282240 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Presidency Ministry's Information and Press Secretariat; date not given]

[Text] Government policy is to ensure complete normalcy before and after the 9 March 1984 elections. This will be done under guidelines such as not allowing changes in the rolls of public servants except for those who violate the rules on impartiality or fail to provide the support needed for the state machinery to operate normally. Additionally, the president has decided that he will not contemplate any change of ranking government officials who are satisfactorily fulfilling their duties, among them the cabinet ministers, governors, intendants, and commissioners.

LAW RATIFYING PRC SCIENCE AGREEMENT APPROVED

PA282230 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota -- President Betancur has approved the law ratifying the scientific and technical cooperation agreement between Colombia and the PRC, which was signed in Beijing on 23 December 1981.

This agreement is aimed at promoting and developing scientific and technical cooperation between the two states based on the principles of equal rights and mutual benefit. The two countries pledge cooperation on those aspects of science and technology in which there are favorable possibilities for the fast promotion and development of the economy of the two countries.

The agreement includes scientific cooperation in the following ways: the exchange and hiring of professors, scientists, technicians, and expert researchers to carry out research, practice their field of specialty, and lecture on their techniques and experience; the exchange of information and documentation through meetings and expositions on scientific and technological topics; and the supply of small amounts of seeds and plants for scientific research.

As part of the agreement signed by the two governments, a mixed commission was created. It will have the following duties: to discuss and approve the scientific and technological topics that will be covered by the agreement, and to make recommendations to the two governments regarding implementation of this agreement and its programs.

This commission will be coordinated by the Colombian Foreign Ministry and the PRC Foreign Economic Relations Ministry. It will meet alternately in Colombia and the PRC when the two states deem it necessary. This agreement, which is in force starting today, will have a duration of 3 years, and can be automatically extended for successive 1-year periods.

ALLEGED 'SHINING PATH' REBELS STEAL WEAPONS

PA290240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Bogota, 28 Dec (EFE) -- The "Shining Path," an alleged Peruvian terrorist group, attacked the home of a retired Army colonel in Bogota and stole several weapons from his collection, it was officially reported today. A spokesman for the Defense Ministry said that the incident occurred at the home of Gregorio Infante, a retired colonel whose home is located in Paul VI neighborhood.

The source added that two heavily armed men who claimed to belong to the "Shining Path" entered the retired officer's home and stole several weapons of various calibers that were part of his collection kept in a securely protected showcase. The guerrillas left behind propaganda alluding to the Peruvian terrorist group, which has carried out several attacks and murders in Peru this year.

Seven weeks ago the newspaper EL COMERCIO of Lima warned in an editorial that the guerrilla group had expanded into several South American countries, including Colombia.

HAVANA CITES FARC BULLETIN ON COMMON CRIMINALS

PA280314 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, in a communique has warned that common criminals are blackmailing businessmen, cattlemen, and professionals in Santander Department while claiming to be guerrillas. A FARC bulletin published by the Colombian papers exhorted the peasants, workers, farm owners, and inhabitants of the middle Magdalena sector in general to take measures against kidnapping, extortion, and blackmail.

PETROPERU WORKERS STRIKE DECLARED 'ILLEGAL'

PY281925 Paris AFP in Spanish 1650 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 28 Dec (AFP) -- Today the Labor Ministry declared illegal a strike started on 24 December by 9,000 State Petroleum Agency (Petroperu) workers calling for the agreement on salary readjustments to be observed.

The Labor Ministry authorities ordered the workers to return to work immediately, threating to lay them off, but the workers are determined to continue the strike and even go one step further by holding a hunger strike to protest the bureaucratic management of the enterprise.

In turn, Petroperu has given assurances to the public and industry that there will be no fuel shortages, thus denying reports that the supply of gasoline is running low.

HAVANA REPORTS BOMB ATTACK ON PRC EMBASSY

PA272136 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Five unidentified men hurled several explosive devices at the PRC Embassy in Peru early Monday, 26 December, but no one was wounded, according to reports from Lima.

It was also reported that eight people hurled explosives at the luxurious La Rosa Nautica restaurant in Miraflores neighborhood. No victims were reported there either.

The Federation of Peruvian Students expressed its repudiation of the new university law approved by the government majority in the parliament. In a communique issued in Lima, the organization declared that the law has reduced the university's autonomy to a farce because police can enter the campus whenever they please. In addition, student representation has been eliminated from the university government.

According to last-minute reports, the 8,000 workers from the State Petroleum Agency, Petroperu, are continuing the indefinite strike that started 3 days ago for salary increases.

BRIEFS

TWO TERRORIST CELLS DISBANDED -- Cuzco, 2 Dec -- The local police have disbanded two terrorist cells operating in Cuzco along with criminals from Ayacucho and Huancavelica. The first group, which was made up of six individuals headed by Jose Carlos Matias Solis, had raided the Tinta district, causing damage to private property. The second group was made up of 16 individuals, but their identities were not revealed by police. In their hideout along Maruri Street, police seized a considerable amount of dynamite sticks, fuses, detonators, and a submachinegun. The police also found blueprints of the premises of the Civil Guard, the Republican Guard, the Fourth Military Region and other local institutions. This group was responsible for the death of a Republican Guard in Santa Monica 2 weeks ago. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Dec 83 p A 15 PY]

NEW 50,000 SOLES BILLS -- The first shipment of 125 kg of the new 50,000 soles bills arrived on an Iberia flight from London on 10 December. The new bills will be put into circulation on 19 December. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p 10 PY]

EXPORTS OF MEAT TO USSR, BRAZIL RESUMED

PY282102 Paris AFP in Spanish 1331 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Dec (AFP) -- It was officially announced today that Uruguay will sell 8,000 tons of meat to the Soviet Union. Meat sales between the two countries were suspended for more than 1 year when the Soviet Union decided to purchase only half that amount.

Agriculture and Fishing Minister Carlos Mattos also revealed that Uruguay has resumed exporting to Brazil with the sale of 12,000 tons of meat, and that the traditional markets of the Arab world have been maintained, especially Egypt, its main purchaser, and that the country received $220 million in 1983 for the sale of 210,000 tons of meat.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA -- Adolfo Castells, the new Uruguayan ambassador to Nigeria, has presented his credentials to Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari. [Excerpt] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 5 PY]

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS -- The executive branch has appointed Captains Yamandu Ubal and Tabare Estevez, and Commander Jorge Bercianos as naval attaches to the Uruguayan Embassies in Spain, Great Britain, and Chile. Cdr Bercianos has also been appointed Uruguayan representative to the International Maritime Organization. The executive branch has also appointed Air Force Colonel Esteban C. Casariego as commander of the Second Air Brigade. [Excerpt] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 5 PY]

COSTA RICA

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON NICARAGUA, CONTADORA, OAS

PA281848 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The policies to be pursued by the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry as Carlos Jose Gutierrez Gutierrez, the new foreign minister, assumes office, are the exercise of Costa Rica's permanent and active neutrality as decreed by President Monge, the protection of Costa Rica's sovereignty, and efforts to attain peace in Central America. Gutierrez Gutierrez said that by defending these three tenets, along with the general principles of international law, Costa Rica will remain a free and sovereign nation.

The foreign minister said that to a great extent Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations will depend upon the Nicaraguan Government's attitude. In 1982 the Nicaraguan Government pursued a very aggressive policy toward the Monge adminstration, Gutierrez said. It criticized Monge sharply, obstructed free navigation along the San Juan River, and forced Costa Rica to respond to those (?attacks). In 1983 the Nicaraguans decided to moderate their policy and showed great respect for the Costa Rican Government, enabling it to engage in talks with the Nicaraguans and to solve some problems. It remains to be seen what their attitude will be in 1984. Speaking rhetorically, Gutierrez asked whether Nicaraguans will continue to support peace, and whether they will agree to solve problems within the Contadora Group framework.

Gutierrez Gutierrez went on to say that Costa Rica has always been willing to hold talks as a means of resolving problems [words indistinct]. In addition, the current administration has been busy trying to maintain Costa Rica's peace and neutrality despite the [words indistinct] problems. I would daresay that there will be no changes in the Costa Rican Government's role, he added.

The new foreign minister also reported that there will be a meeting of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Joint Bilateral Commission. This commission, which includes deputy ministers, will meet in early January to discuss the problem of territorial waters, Gutierrez Gutierrez added. The commission stopped meeting because of the attack by the Sandinist People's Army on Costa Rica's Penas Blancas border post. However, as time has passed and the situation has quieted, President Monge is willing to allow the joint commission to meet again in January.

On the performance of former Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez, Gutierrez Gutierrez said that he believes Volio performed his duties adequately amid difficult circumstances. Volio Jimenez was required to deal with the most difficult aspects of the poor relationship between the two nations, particularly in 1982, he said. Despite this, he added, the former foreign minister acted forcefully, wisely, and with a high degree of [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, he said, foreign policy changes will respond to the new situation. I am referring to changes [words indistinct] because one must adapt to changing circumstances, Gutierrez Gutierrez said. He also said that 1984 may hold many surprises, including new problems, and our actions will have to follow these new developments.

On the subject of the Contadora Group, the new foreign minister said that it might be the only way to secure a peaceful solution to Central America's problems. It is not a matter of comparing the efforts of the Contadora Group with any other peace effort; Contadora is the only viable path, and as such, it must be explored and continued in an attempt to reach a solution, the minister said. He continued by saying that it is a very difficult road, but that this is because the problems are very serious.

Gutierrez Gutierrez said that Costa Rica's relations with the OAS have always been excellent, adding that Costa Rica has complied with all of its obligations to that organization. He also said that Roving Ambassador Jose Figueres has always been worthy of the greatest respect, based on what Figueres means to Costa Rica at this time. I believe that he is the father of contemporary Costa Rica, he added, and I will certainly try to use his great prestige and ability to the nation's benefit.

M-3 ANTI-SANDINIST GUERRILLAS ARRESTED

PA280010 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 17 Dec 83 p 10-A

[Excerpts] A total of seven guerrillas of the anti-Sandinist group M-3 were arrested 2 days ago in Liberia and Grecia, Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon has reported. The arrests coincided with reports from the Public Security Ministry that the Civil Guard will increase actions against the subversive groups in the northern border zone.

Colonel Oscar Vidal, chief of the Civil Guard, has said that although the region is calm, special attention is being given to the activities of the local extremists of both sides.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON -- Fernando Berrocal Soto, current minister of the Presidency, will be appointed new ambassador to Washington. He will replace Fernando Soto Harrison, who resigned 2 months ago. Manuel Carvallo Quintana, deputy minister of the Presidency, will replace Berrocal Soto as minister. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83 PA]

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE 30 DAYS

PA290255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- President Alvaro Magana today extended the state of siege for 30 more days, effective tomorrow, because the circumstances that prompted its implementation in March 1980 still persist. The suspension of constitutional guarantees was not extended by the Legislative Assembly during yesterday's plenary session since only 34 of the 60 deputies that compose the plenary were present. The new Constitution provides that the law must be approved by two-thirds of the congress.

The state of siege was effective until today, which is why Magana called an extraordinary Cabinet meeting to approve the measures. The state of siege restricts, among other citizens rights, freedom to meet, the free transit of national territory, freedom of expression, and the inviolability of correspondence.

PCN NAMES PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

PA272158 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] We have just been informed by telephone that the General Assembly of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, ended a few moments ago at the party's headquarters, with the nomination of Francisco Jose Guerrero and Pio Arnulfo Ayala as presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively, for the party during the coming elections, scheduled to take place in March 1984.

Guerrero resigned from the post of minister of the Presidency, and Ayala from the post of minister of public works, under the current Dr Alvaro Magana regime.

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON BATTLES, COMMUNIST COMMUNIQUE

Monterrosa Scored

PA280434 (Clandestine) Radio Veneremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The dictatorship has failed again in Morazan Department. After the Army suffered another defeat, inflicted by the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, the ridiculous Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, again issued its equally ridiculous lies.

[Colonel Domingo] Monterrosa, a pathological liar like COPREFA, said he would follow us into the border area of Morazan Department. Less than 48 hours later, Monterrosa hurriedly left Morazan Department with his 5,000 men from the lauded special battalions. They moved toward northern San Miguel, where the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade had attacked the enemy's rearguard. Monterrosa went there to organize another operation in reprisal for the defeats suffered at the hands of the FMLN.

Hear us well. Domingo Monterrosa [words indistinct] son of genocidal Domingo Monterrosa, had set a trap in northern San Miguel with the intention of catching our forces.

During the 24 December fighting, our revolutionary forces caused many casualties to the Arce and Belloso Battalions and other enemy forces. Today, 26 December, the troops that had supposedly set a trap to annihilate the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade fled from northern San Miguel. Thus, the enemy's plans organized by Domingo Monterrosa for northern San Miguel resulted in complete failure.

In addition, Domingo Monterrosa left us 40 G-3 rifles for the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front. He also left 23 prisoners of war, many dead, and lots of wounded soldiers. He took five damaged helicopters and a dead pilot with him. The only thing that Monterrosa did when he came to the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front was to spread death and destruction among the civilian population.

COPREFA 'Lies'

PA282155 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Twelve days of fierce fighting have elapsed in the northeast. During those 12 days the Army suffered a crushing defeat. However, COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee] has tried to conceal this defeat behind a smokescreen, telling lies like it never has before.

During the past few days Radio Venceremos has been broadcasting truthful and abundant information on the progress of these clashes since 14 December, when we started attacking enemy positions on Cerro Cacahuatique defended by the (Tecana) Battalion. The clash ended with the defeat of this battalion.

This defeat marked the start of a chain of COPREFA lies and a chain of defeats for Domingo Monterrosa. For each Domingo Monterrosa military defeat, COPREFA has been telling an average of three or four lies.

However, COPREFA's main objective is to give the impression that the Army has maintained the military initiative and retains the offensive, using new tactics and leadership changes.

In one communique after another COPREFA has been praising the use of helicopter-borne troops. It has been announcing alleged pursuit of our forces, alleged encirclements to annihilate us, and even the alleged killing of 300 or more of our forces over the past 12 days of fighting.

One must have a lot of nerve to issue such communiques, which are crammed full of lies, right down to the signatures. To top this off, Monterrosa said that his objective was not to recover the villages in northern Morazan, but to wear us down. Monterrosa did not achieve either objective. He did not recover those villages and he did not wear down our forces.

They came close to saying that we attacked them with planes and helicopters. There is no doubt that Domingo Monterrosa and Aristides Cienfuegos make up an excellent combination of defeats and lies.

The real outcome of these 12 days of fighting in the northeast is that our revolutionary army, through the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, seized 87 rifles and 14 support weapons from the dictatorship, captured 35 prisoners, damaged 5 helicopters, killed one pilot and Cadet Lieutenant Varillas, occupied Ciudad Barrios, defeated a battalion on Cerro Cacahuatique, and inflicted approximately 225 casualties on the dictatorship. We have the prisoners here, the damaged helicopters are there, and the weapons we seized are already being used. Most of these feats were accomplished by the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade under the noses of Monterrosa's 5,000 policemen, who were running from one place to another until they passed out, without achieving anything.

Where is the effectiveness of the helicopter-borne troops? Where is the effectiveness of the changes made within the Army? Where are the alleged pursuits and the encirclements to annihilate us, announced by COPREFA? Where is at least one of the 300 dead they claim to have inflicted on us during these clashes? These things only exist in the COPREFA communiques, in Aristides Cienfuegos' head, and on Domingo Monterrosa's tongue.

Army Deaths Reported

PA282030 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front has reported that revolutionary forces held a meeting with area residents at Kilometer 203 on the coastal highway, close to the exit [words indistinct] the morning of 27 December. The residents expressed their support for our struggle.

The enemy then deployed Atonal Battalion troops to the area. We clashed with the troops, killing four and wounding several of them. Companeros Roque and Jorge led this operation, while Commander Pedro sent this report from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front.

December 26 Actions

PA282215 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[War Bulletin issued by the FMLN's Anastacio Aquino Paracentral Front; date and place not given]

[Text] On 26 December at 0015, our forces sabotaged the powerline in La Arenera on the highway joining San Vicente to Zacatecoluca, where propaganda was also distributed.

Our militiamen withdrew from the area without any problems.

[Words indistinct] at 0915 on 26 December our forces attacked an enemy convoy in the vicinity of (?Canas) and (Lascon) on the highway leading from San Vicente to Zacatecoluca. The number of casualties inflicted on the dictatorship are not yet known. After fulfilling their mission, our forces withdrew without any problems.

This is how our armed people advance, by inflicting heavy blows on the enemy in various parts of the country.

Communists Issue Communique

PA281755 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Communist Party in El Salvador on 27 December 1983]

[Text] On 5 December 1983, the Christian Legal Aid Office of El Salvador publicly reported that on 2 December some of its members visited the La Esperanza Penal Center in Mariana, San Salvador, where they took a statement from prisoner Jorge Alberto Galan Brande, who was captured by the National Police at a bus stop on 27 November 1983.

In his testimony, Jorge Alberto Galan Grande said that Jose Francisco Manjivar Rivera was in the same police car in which he was placed, and that on the way to National Police Headquarters, uniformed policemen questioned Menjivar about his participation in political activities and brutally beat him.

Jose Francisco Menjivar Rivera is one of three companeros whom the self-styled death squad, the Secret Anticommunist Army, claimed they had captured in El Limon canton in Soyapango on 20 November 1983.

We have waited a reasonable length of time for the National Police to respond to our appeals, but nothing has been done to date. On the contrary, National Police Director Colonel Reinaldo Lopez Nuila, in a futile effort to distract public attention from the ridiculous lie in which he has been caught red-handed, has had the nerve to invite Monsignor Arturo Rivera y Damas, the archbishop of San Salvador, to visit the National Police prisons and to view the condition of those prisoners whom Lopez decides to show him. In this way he expects to take advantage of the archbishop's good faith, for he will never show him the clandestine prisons, where on his orders, people disappear or are brutally tortured and murdered by the Secret Anticommunist Army.

Jorge Alberto Galan Grande's statement confirms our charge of 27 November 1983, via Radio Venceremos and other means, that Companeros Jose Francisco Manjivar Rivera, Angel Renan Gomez, and Hugo Edgardo Martinez were arrested by the National Police between 5 and 8 November and not by the Secret Anticommunist Army on 20 November, as this death squad said in a communique, in which it also threatened to kill them.

Galan Grande's statement to the Christian Legal Aid Office is just one more piece of evidence among many proving that a direct link exists between the security corps and the Salvadoran Army and the death squads. Thousands of patriots have been kidnapped, tortured, and murdered by the beasts on orders from the genocidal officers in charge of the security corps headquarters and Army posts. One such officer is National Police Director Colonel Reinaldo Lopez Nuila, who was appointed by the Magana government in an obvious act of effrontery before the Salvadoran people and world public opinion as a member of the official Human Rights Commission of El Salvador, with the approval of the parties that signed the so-called APANECA Pact:

The Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA; the Christian Democratic Party, PDC; the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS; the National Conciliation Party, PCN; and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA.

It is therefore clear that our Companeros Jose Francisco Menjivar Rivera, Angel Renan Gomez, and Hugo Edgardo Martinez are in a clandestine prison belonging to the National Police. The National Police should either release them or turn them over to the proper authorities. As an initial step, they should offer trustworthy evidence that our companeros are alive.

Col Lopez Nuila is responsible for the physical and mental well-being of our companeros and will have to account for it before our revolution and our people.

We repeat, Major Napoleon Medina Garay will be prosecuted by the FMLN for his crimes if our companeros do not turn up alive.

United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death we will win! Proletarians of all countries unite!

[Signed] Jorge Shafick Handal, secretary general of the Salvadoran Communist Party Central Committee; commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Liberation, FAL; member of the FMLN

[Dated] El Salvador, 27 December 1983

FMLN SUMMARIZES 1983 ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGHTING

PA281416 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] In 1983, thousands of fellow fighters decided to don olive drab uniforms, carry rifles, and fire on the trenches and foundations of the current system of social injustice, repression, and exploitation. Here are the victories that have been won to date in 1983 by these thousands of young patriots: Here are the people's victories and the genocidal Army's defeats:

The rebel youths of El Salvador inflicted more than 6,974 casualties on the puppet Army, including regular soldiers, officers, and commanders. We also took 1,557 members of the Army as prisoners of war. For our new battalions, we recovered 3,206 rifles, 61 machineguns, 53 M-79 grenade launchers, 1 RPG-2 rocket launcher, 22 90-mm cannon, 24 60-mm mortars, 14 81-mm mortars, 2 120-mm mortars, and 10 submachineguns. This is a total of 3,393 weapons of war recovered from the Army, which is being trained by 80 Yankee advisers.

Throughout a year of fighting these young men made up the groups of snipers and the support forces that caused the enemy to lose the following equipment: 3 military trucks were damaged and 19 were destroyed, 11 armored personnel carriers were damaged and 5 were destroyed, 20 helicopters were damaged and 1 was shot down, 6 airplanes were damaged and 1 A-37 airplane was shot down, 4 trains were sabotaged, 23 bridges were blown up, and 5 of the enemy Army's strategic communication centers were destroyed.

In less than a year our forces have taken over 168 towns and places of work for propaganda activities, 367 armed propaganda actions were carried out, and 10 commercial radio stations were taken over to broadcast the objectives of our just struggle.

We established 117 revolutionary roadblocks; 131 bridges, garrisons, and barracks were attacked and harassed; and 101 enemy military positions were swept away by our guerrilla fire, thus expanding our areas of military control and influence.

This has been the action of an armed nation. The people have decided to win their rights with weapons in hand.

Forward, courageous militia members, guerrilla members, and fighters of the people's army! We fight to win!

1983 has represented the consolidation and overwhelming advance of our fighting people's army. It is the homeland's new army! With firm step and fire, the guerrilla army advances toward power!

More than 3,300 weapons have been recovered. More than 1,500 soldiers were captured as prisoners of war. Nearly 7,000 enemy casualties were inflicted. These are our victories against the dictatorship's Army!

HAVANA REPORTAGE CITES BISHOP, COVERS CLASHES

Bishop on Dead, Missing

PA261737 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] According to information provided by the [Catholic] Church in the smallest country in Central America, over 6,000 Salvadorans died and 526 disappeared as a result of official repression in 1983.

Monsignor Gregorio Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, said this past Sunday that 4,736 of the victims died at the hands of the Army and paramilitary groups and that the remaining 1,279 were Army casualties.

The prelate regretted that El Salvador is notorious because of international newspaper and television reports on the blood being shed by the Salvadoran people.

Meanwhile, Alvaro Magana, head of the Salvadoran regime, said in a Christmas message that his government has respected human rights and that steps will be taken to stop the activities of paramilitary bands. In recent weeks Washington has had to urge the Salvadoran authorities to be careful in this regard so that the U.S. Congress will approve more money for the current regime.

The FMLN has said that it will continue its struggle until the country is liberated. It has charged that the government's Christmas gift for the residents of Morazan was a series of intense air attacks that destroyed many homes and caused a great number of civilian casualties.

Death Squads, Morazan Clashes

FL231648 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla sources have reported that the apparent measures of Alvaro Magana's regime against the death squads are a vain effort to conceal its responsibility for the murder of 40,000 people. Meanwhile, Salvadoran guerrillas have occupied the town of Ciudad Barrios following a large offensive in Morazan Department by government forces using troops trained in the United States.

Radio Venceremos has also reported that guerrilla antiaircraft batteries hit four U.S.-made helicopters that were carrying troops.

Some 3,000 troops from elite battalions especially trained by the United States are participating in the counteroffensive, which the rebel radio station called one more failure.

Other clashes have occurred in Morazan, but there are still no details on the results of these.

The FMLN has reported that in the current offensive, Honduran troops have installed themselves along the Honduran-Salvadoran border in the area adjacent to Morazan.

Government Casualties in Morazan

PA240027 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Salvadoran FMLN forces have inflicted more than 50 casualties on the large military contingent that has carried out an intensive anti-insurgency offensive in Morazan Department.

After noting that the rebels have seized Ciudad Barrios, Radio Venceremos, the official voice of the FMLN, declared that the guerrillas have taken the initiative in Morazan completely and have defeated the U.S. tactic being applied by the army of landing airborne troops.

While admitting that the Army has taken some towns that had been held by the rebels, Radio Venceremos noted that the FMLN's forces don't fight to defend positions, but to wear out and annihilate enemy forces and to recover weapons.

The rebel radio station also reported that the government troops are bogged down in Morazan and are suffering an important rearguard defeat.

Meanwhile, it has been reported in San Salvador that martial law was lifted in the country when the new Constitution went into effect; the country had been under martial law since March 1980.

Finally, Salvadoran FDR president Guillermo Manuel Ungo has charged in Panama City that the United States will increase its military presence in Central America in 1984. Ungo said that the United States plans to install three big military bases in Salvadoran territory, to be used to reinforce the Salvadoran Army and to cover its rearguard. In so doing, the Pentagon will use Honduran, Guatemalan, and even U.S. troops.

Bombing, Shelling of Towns

PA241810 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Radio Venceremos, voice of the FMLN, has reported that the Salvadoran Air Force and Army artillery bombed and shelled several towns occupied by the guerrillas. It added that the attack resulted in many civilian casualties in San Simon, San Isidro, San Luis de la Reina, and Ciudad Barrios, all in San Miguel Department.

The source noted that the bombing was ordered by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa after Army troops failed in their efforts to advance to Ciudad Barrios, seized by patriots 3 days ago.

Radio Venceremos stated that two battalions stationed in San Miguel Department were stopped by rebel squads as they tried to move toward Ciudad Barrios.

Several Salvadoran press sources disclosed that the rebels occupied San Jose Guayabal, 30 km northwest of San Salvador, on Thursday. The tyranny's Armed Forces responded with heavy shelling of the town.

Meanwhile, military spokesmen admitted that the rebels attacked the garrison in San Jose, approximately 24 km north of San Salvador, inflicting 16 casualties on the Army, including 6 dead.

In addition, the Committee of Mothers of Missing Prisoners criticized the refusal of the Salvadoran authorities and the U.S. Embassy to heed their request for the release of their relatives.

Air Force Bombings

PA250334 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran regime has deployed its special battalions and National Police security corps, with support from the Air Force, in a new attempt to dislodge the rebel forces that have been occupying Ciudad Barrios in San Miguel Department for several days.

Radio Venceremos, the voice of the FMLN, has exhorted the people to build anti-aircraft shelters to protect themselves from the Salvadoran Air Force's indiscriminate bombings. According to the rebel radio station, this measure is necessary because the Army has intensified its air attacks in the last few days on Sesori, (San Luis de Bayardo), (San Isidro de la Reina), and Ciudad Barrios, in San Miguel Department, leaving hundreds of casualties in their wake.

Radio Venceremos has also exhorted the international press to come to the site and learn the truth about the Army's operations in the area, stressing that these bombings reflect the new tactics implemented by the U.S. advisers in El Salvador.

GUATEMALA

NAVY SEIZES MEXICAN VESSEL FISHING ILLEGALLY

PA282005 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Navy seized a Mexican fishing vessel in Guatemalan territorial waters yesterday, the Army reported today.

The communique, which was released this afternoon, reports that in the course of a routine patrol of the Pacific coastline near a spot known as La Barra Ayutla, the Navy discovered the trawler "La Nina," flying a Mexican flag, as it was fishing early yesterday morning, and seized the vessel in accordance with international maritime law. The boat and its crew were placed under the orders of the pertinent courts, the Guatemalan Army communique says in conclusion.

BRIEFS

COFFEE QUOTA INCREASE -- The international coffee export quota has been increased by 1 million 60-kg sacks, a development which gives Guatemala the chance to increase its coffee sales this quarter to obtain coffee revenues of over 88 million quetzales during this period. With the raising of the international quota, Guatemala will be able to export 44,855 quintals more than its former quota permitted. With this increase, sales this quarter are expected to total 88,052,086.75 quetzales. [Summary] Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 24 Dec 83 PA]

HONDURAS

COMMUNIST PARTY ISSUES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

PA282235 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- On the occasion of the Christmas holidays the Communist Party of Honduras [PCH] has issued a communique on the current political situation in the country. The communique states that the people with one or more family members behind bars, in a cell at the Tamara Jail, at the Central Jail, or being held by the sinister Department of National Investigation, DIN, can hardly celebrate the holidays. These people have been deprived of their freedom because of their love for the homeland, social justice, democracy, or national independence.

The communique mentions the situation being experienced by 500,000 unemployed Hondurans. The lighted signs announcing the sale of toys, grapes, and apples will mean nothing to them, because they don't have the money to purchase these items. These people don't even have enough money to eat.

NICARAGUA

HUMBERTO ORTEGA ADDRESS SUMMARIZES 1983 ACTIONS

PA281746 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1620 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Speech by Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, during the Armed Forces' "Victorious December" ceremony in honor of 1983 heroes and martyrs in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] We will now summarize enemy activities in 1983 and our people's unselfish, self-sacrificing, and heroic revolutionary response to the counterrevolutionary tools of Yankee imperialism.

Aerial Activities: Over 620 air actions were recorded in 1983, a substantial increase over the 275 conducted in 1982. Over 200 of these air actions were carried out with U.S. Air Force radioelectronic and photographic reconnaissance planes. The nation's territory has been attacked, especially areas in which the mercenary Somozist bands and the traitor's [Eden Pastora] forces have been most active.

Over 400 aerial actions, primarily originating in Honduran territory, have been carried out with airplanes and helicopters of various types. This represents a profound increase over the 1973 actions carried out in 1982. The CIA's counterrevolutionary tools staged 19 air raids over Sandinist Navy patrol boats, fishing boats in the economic zone, the floating bridge over the Wawa River in northern Zelaya, EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border post, and on towns such as San Fernando, (Urucuchi), and Teotecacinte, among others, in northern Nueva Segovia.

Naval Activities: Over 170 naval actions were recorded in 1983, a very substantial increase over the 24 actions that were staged by the enemy in 1982. Of these, over 100 coincided with the presence of U.S. Navy ships in the area.

Our commercial vessels have been threateningly buzzed by Yankee Navy seaplanes, which thus threaten our revolution. On some occasions, the Yankee ships facilitated the infiltration of CIA amphibious commando groups for sabotage operations against our economy.

The rest of the naval actions -- totalling about 60 -- consisted of violations of our territorial waters. Most of these operations were launched from Honduras with Honduran Coast Goard cutters and speedboats known as piranhas, or involved sea pirates who plunder our fishing resources. The enemy staged 16 naval attacks, primarily in the tidelands of the Gulf of Fonseca and Cape Gracias a Dios, against Sandinist Navy ships, Nicaraguan fishing boats, and some important targets on the coast.

Enemy Infiltration: By the end of November 1983 there had been 90 counterrevolutionary infiltrations. Of these, 69 came from Honduras and the rest originated in Costa Rica.

Provocations: A total of 108 provocations, consisting of attacks on our troops and direct support for counterrevolutionary attacks on our border areas, were carried out, whereas only 69 such provocations were recorded in 1982.

The enemy infiltrations from Honduras and Costa Rica gave rise to 912 actions of various sorts. Of these, 495 were armed clashes with our troops, provoked by our military initiative in an overwhelming number of cases. The rest of the actions were a part of the counterrevolutionaries' constant criminal and terrorizing campaigns, particularly against remote villages, areas important to our economy, and the programs being implemented by the MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform], MICONS [Ministry of Construction], CORFOP [People's Forestry Corporation], and INMINEH [Nicaraguan Institute of Mines and Hydrocarbons], among other state institutions.

Preliminary statistics, excluding November and December, are as follows: A total of 945 Nicaraguan citizens who were engaged in civilian activities have been either killed, wounded, or kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary bands. Civilian deaths total 346, of which 242 were workers and peasants and the remaining 104 were technicians and professionals devoted to national reconstruction.

In this period, 547 peasants were kidnapped by the counterrevolutionary bands. The fate of these victims of Yankee imperialism's irrational aggressive policy against our people is unknown to date. Damage caused by enemy activities to our economy in this period amounts to 1 billion cordobas. This represents a very high cost for a poor country like ours, which is also struggling to overcome the backwardness and underdevelopment that we inherited from those who now want to destroy us.

Statistics on enemy casualties as of the first half of December 1983 are as follows:

Counterrevolutionary casulaties and prisoners totalled 2,414: 1,824 were killed and the rest were either captured or wounded. [applause]

Complying with their sacred duty to defend our fatherland and revolution, 300 EPC members fell heroically and bravely while fighting the imperialist aggressors in various parts of our national territory. Also fulfilling their patriotic and revolutionary duties, Interior Ministry officers sacrificed their lives, as did their Army brothers.

Overall Analysis of Counterrevolutionary Activities: Although our troops have hit the counterrevolutionary forces as a whole and undermined their fighting morale, these forces, which rely on Yankee support and safe bases abroad, still have the strength, particularly expressed in military means, to continue their primarily diversionary activities and their campaign of terror against the smaller towns near their traditional areas of operation.

For 1984 we foresee the increasing subordination of the counterrevolutionaries' activities to the plans to provoke a war between Honduras and Nicaragua, which would allow the Yankee warmongers to involve their armed forces directly against Nicaragua. This is because the blows being dealt the counterrevolution by our armed people have dashed Yankee imperialism's hopes of liberating a piece of territory in our country through the exclusive use of the counterrevolutionaries and of being able, as a result, to involve foreign military forces, including their own, arguing that there is a civil war in Nicaragua.

Since the counterrevolution has been unable to comply with the Yankee plans throughout 1983 and has, on the contrary, been weakened by the military, moral, and political blows it has received from the rifles of our people and revolution, the Yankees have no option but to continue to use the counterrevolutionaries to hamper our economy, to sow terror, and as an advance force for provocations and for support for their broader plans for intervention.

We have defeated the counterrevolution throughout 1983. In 1984 we will continue to strike at the counterrevolution until we dismantle and annihilate it completely. [applause] We will achieve this goal sooner rather than later, and will thus totally unmask the Yankee aggression that our working and patriotic people heroically endure and repel every day. [applause]

In 1984 we will continue to bolster the various plans through which the entire nation is being prepared to reject foreign intervention militarily, including intervention by the Yankee Marines and paratroopers who are already preparing the Big Pine III maneuvers off Honduras' Pacific coast. We will continue to consolidate and develop the plans for the Civil Defense Corps, the Sandinist People's Militias, the reserve infantry battalions, the patriotic military service, and the overall strengthening of our land, artillery, armor, Navy, Air Force, and anti-aircraft defense forces. [applause]

MISURA ACCUSES FSLN OF HARASSING INDIANS

PA231200 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 22 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] The Political Commission of the MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas] counterrevolutionary group said yesterday in Tegucigalpa that the FSLN of Nicaragua is bombing Francia Sirpe to prevent residents of that village in northern Nicaragua from migrating.

According to the charges, the Sandinist commanders have been harassing and reproaching the Nicaraguan people, and as a result, the villagers have decided to leave the country because they say they are tired of working like slaves growing agricultural products, of the strict rationing of food supplies, of the repressive harassment, and of the program of relocating them from one concentration camp to another.

They said that the situation has reached such a point that the refugees are fleeing to the mountains amid indiscriminate bombing and artillery fire that has caused mass genocide of women, children, elderly people, and youths.

Despite this, the Sandinists said that these people, totaling 3,000 were kidnapped by the counterrevolutionaries.

This statement has been rejected by the MISURA group, the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], and ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], because the Miskito Indians are fleeing the injustices committed in that nation.

The commission said that this flight was supported by 12 Sandinist People's Army soldiers, who have also become weary of so much injustice and repression, and who are now being pursued by the internationalist brigades (of Cuban, Russian, and other nationalities).

Steadman Fagoth Muller, commander in chief of the insurgent MISURA Army High Command, said that the misinformation campaign that the Sandinists are carrying out is aimed at confusing the international and national public. They are tyring to justify extermination of the migrating population fleeing from the rampant terror in the area.

Fagoth said: "Let it be clearly known that the amnesty decree directed at these people fleeing from terror is nothing but another farce and a demagogic solution that Sandino-Communism is trying to sell the public. There can be no talk about justice when injustices are being committed; the truth cannot be proclaimed when lies are being told."

In addition, the MISURA Political Commission denounced the murder and extermination of the Nicaraguan Indian population to the Human Rights Commission, the United Nations, the OAS, and Amnesty International, and demanded their direct involvement by sending persons to witness the situation.

The Commission said that in the name of human rights it is asking the Honduran and Costa Rican Governments to accept the 3,000 refugees, and asks the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Relief Commission to help solve the problem.

MISURA ANNOUNCES END OF FRANCIA SIRPE EVACUATION

PA282350 (Clandestine) Radio Miskut in Spanish to Nicaragua 1400 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Communique No 3 of the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama [MISURA] staff; issued in Sukuas at 1030 local time, 24 December 1983]

[Text] The MISURA staff informs the Nicaraguan people, especially the Indian people:

The events involving the liberation of our people in Francia Sirpe, from 19 to 23 December 1983, including the following facts:

1. The Marxist-Leninist dictatorship of the nine Nicaraguan commanders has unveiled its terrorist nature, lack of human sensibility, and absolute lack of respect for human dignity and life. It has also exhibited its atheism, which has pushed it to continuously make a mockery of the religious beliefs of our people.

2. It is not necessary to go into explanations about the propaganda campaign carried out by the propaganda machinery at the service of the Sandinist-Communist dictatorship, which falsely reported the death of our top religious leader on the Atlantic coast, Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer.

It was logical for us to be concerned about the satanic plan put into effect by the FSLN-Communist Party leadership, the National Directorate, and the so-called Nicaraguan Government Junta, which officially claimed that our monsignor had been murdered, because we knew that the announcement of his death was false, and we knew that the idea was to murder him so that they could secure political advantage from his death.

The monsignor had been officially sentenced to death.

3. All the work carried out by the special forces of the repressive Army, at the complete service of the nine Nicaraguan dictators, ended in complete failure because of the fighting spirit of our soldiers. In spite of the fact that Tomas Borge and the other genocidals did everything possible to prevent our people from reaching freedom and to kill our pastors by mobilizing two battalions specialized in massacre, torture, and all means of terror, their efforts ended in complete failure. These bloodthirsty forces faced our fighters who were protecting our people and their pastors. They were stopped by our forces which faced an army that morally, militarily, and politically is defeated. Our forces are not bands, as the enemy tries to make the people believe.

4. The dictatorship that the nine lackeys of the KGB, the Kremlin, and Fidel Castro have imposed in Nicaragua, the dictatorship they call a revolution, is shaking. It is facing the end because the people's will is to have liberty. The people want to be free. They want to be able to think freely and to state their thoughts freely. They want to work and to be able to choose the type of work they prefer to earn a living. They want to be able to state their opinions and to practice whatever religion they choose. This ideal has gained footing among the people. This is why they have committed themselves to their God, to secure these goals and to defend them with sacrifice and blood. The twisting of what really happened in the Francia Sirpe liberation effort on the dates mentioned has made evident to the Nicaraguan people and other people of the world that there was a plan to kill Monsignor Salvador. This plan was frustrated by our MISURA Army, but could be implemented in the future. For this reason we make the Government Junta and the nine Nicaraguan communist commanders responsible for whatever aggression is carried out against Monsignor Salvador in or out of the country.

On the basis of this, we state:

1. The armed attacks of the Sandinists against the MISURA armed forces and their people in exodus ended on the afternoon of 23 December at 1330.

2. The last of the immigrants who entered Hondurans territory as refugees did so at 2000 23 December.

3. As a result of the fighting our army had one dead and four wounded. The enemy had 73 casualties. Our forces recovered 17 M-16's, which are now at the service of liberty.

4. Our liberation operation was successful, and we were able to deliver Monsignor Salvador and his companions safe and sound, saved from the Sandinist assassins.

5. The struggle for the liberty of our people will become increasingly intense until our people's ideal -- the total eradication of the deadly Marxist-Leninist dictatorship that the nine FSLN dictators have imposed on Nicaragua -- becomes a reality so that we can live in peace and liberty.

For God and the fatherland we will win.

Issued in Sukuas [Nicaragua] at 1030, 24 December 1983

Signed by: Commanders Walter Carvajal, Raul Tobias, (Eduardo Franklin), (Lejan Mora), (Gerald Moody), Alejo Teofilo, and Commander in Chief Steadman Fagoth.

ARDE CLAIMS 15 EPS SOLDIERS KILLED AT NIAGARA

PA280419 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 132, issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, armed forces General Command, in the "Nicaraguan Mountains," on 23 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE armed forces General Command informs the Nicaraguan people and the peoples of the free world that:

1. At 0600 on 19 December 1983 the (Felix Pedro Martinez) platoon of Zone PTH-1 [not further identified] attacked the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] forces in Niagara, near the Punta Gorda River.

2. That the operation lasted 15 minutes, during which there was heavy artillery fire.

3. As a result of this action the enemy suffered 15 dead and several wounded.

Without totalitarianism or return to the past!

HAVANA REPORTS ON RELEASE OF PSC MEMBERS

PA280334 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government released two members of the Social Christian Party [PSC] who were serving sentences for counterrevolutionary crimes. The released prisoners were identified as Feliciano Polanco and Julio Ramon Montes Martinez, who were sentenced to 10 years and 22 months, respectively.

The president of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, Agustin Jarquin, considered the government's decision highly positive.

BRIEFS

EXPORT FIGURES -- According to a report issued by the Foreign Trade Ministry, Nicaragua's exports for the first half of 1983 amounted to $271.6 million. This is $8.1 million less than the same period in 1982, the result of lower prices for Nicaraguan exports. [Summary] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17-18 Dec 83 pp 1, 10 PA]

CNPP DELEGATE -- The Constitutionalist Liberal Party has appointed Amantina de Quintanilla its principal delegate to the National Council of Political Parties [CNPP]. Rodolfo Mejia Ubilla was appointed the alternate delegate. [Summary] [Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 83 PA]

SOVIET ASSISTANCE -- The Nicaraguan Government has signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for the construction of a yarn factory at a cost of $20 million. A delegation of Soviet technicians arrived in Nicaragua 20 days ago for this purpose. The plant will be very important for Nicaragua's economy because 800 tons of yarn must currently be imported annually to manufacture knitted fabrics. [Summary] [Managua International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Dec 83 PA]

CASTRO DEDICATES PALMA SORIANO ENTERPRISE

FL272249 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 2152 GMT on 27 December begins live coverage of a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Palma Soriano and the dedication of the newly constructed Palma Soriano publishing house and printing plant at which Cuban President Fidel Castro is to speak.

Establishing shot shows crowd awaiting speech. Camera pans people on stand behind speakers platform.

At 2200 GMT, Fidel Castro is shown approaching the speaker's platform. The Cuban national anthem is played. Havana television staff announcer Manolo Ortega comes to the microphone and sets the stage, identifying important guests as leaders of the party and the state, the Union of Young Communists, mass organizations, and the Ministry of Culture. Ortega introduces the director of the new plan, who speaks from 2205 to 2210 GMT.

Ortega introduces Swedish Ambassador to Cuba Anders Sandstrom at 2210. Sandstrom notes Swedish cooperation in the construction of the plant and speaks until 2215 GMT.

Fidel Castro is introduced and speaks from 2215 GMT on 27 December to 0016 GMT on 28 December.

Castro Dedication Speech

FL272321 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2215 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro dedicating a new publishing house in Palma Soriano -- live]

[Text] My fellow countrymen of Palma; my fellow countrymen of the province of Santiago, Cuba; and my fellow countrymen of Cuba:

It seems that over there the people of Palma appear to be somewhat agitated. [background noises of shouting and chants]

An historical date is being commemorated today in this city, in this municipality, and although 25 years have gone by, we still recall those events as if they occurred yesterday.

We were in the final phase of our definite struggle for liberation. Not much time had gone by since the attack against the Moncada Barracks on 26 July 1953 and in which, it is true, some fighters from Palma participated and even gave their lives. Approximately 5 years and 5 months had transpired since that date, and this period of time was put to good use: years of imprisonment, years of exile, and years of struggling in the Sierra Maestra, but the advance was rapid.

Maybe many persons, when listening to the news related to Santiago, Cuba and the attack against Moncada, could not believe that before 6 years had transpired we would be fighting here in the city of Palma Soriano and within only a few kilometers from the city of Santiago, Cuba. Our troops were advancing in that direction.

During the previous weeks, during an offensive that lasted approximately 40 days, many towns and villages along the Central Highway had been liberated. Guisa was the first, a few kilometers from the Central Highway; then Baire; after that it was Jiguani; to be followed by Contramaestre and Mapos. The fact is that the enemy soldiers entrenched themselves in those stores in Mapos; they built tunnels under the cement foundations; they blockaded all of that with sandbags, and they resisted with tenacity and for a very long time.

There was very intense fighting on the Second Front during those days, throughout the province, and also in the central province of Santa Clara, as it was called in those days. There was also fighting in Camaguey. However, when we reached the area of Palma, troops from the First, Third, and Second Fronts joined. We were impatient to reach Santiago, but we had two armies, one to our rear and the other facing us.

There were thousands of soldiers in Bayamo. There were approximately 5,000 soldiers in Santiago, Cuba. We had fiercely fought those soldiers in Bayamo, not only during the days of the latest enemy offensive in the Sierra Maestra, but also in Guisa, Baire, and in Jiguani. They were fairly select troops, well armed and supported by tanks, artillery, and air forces.

We had made that army retreat to Bayamo, but it was still a strong army. At that time, we understood that its offensive capability had disappeared. Its last attempt to support its surrounded units was carried out with a battalion that had left Jiguani for Mapos, but it did not reach that point because it was defeated en route.

But we also had that army to our rear. We established our defensive line on the Cautillo River. We had Mapos surrounded, but there was still Palma. There were approximately 300 enemy soldiers. We had to take Palma. We were also anxious to take the arms that were to be found in Palma, because when we left La Plata, in the Sierra Maestra, because of the latest offensive, we left with 25 armed soldiers and 1,000 unarmed recruits. We armed those troops along the way. We armed them during the fighting, but we really finished fully arming them in Palma. We did so by picking off squads along the way, by taking weapons from the enemy during the fighting.

At that time we had about 600 or 700 armed men in Column 1 and Front No 3 -- Juan Almeida, Guillermo, and other comrades had taken their troops to Front No 1 -- and we received some reinforcements from the 2nd Eastern Front consisting of two companies from Column 17. Nevertheless, we did not use many men to take Palma. The bulk [of our forces] was defending the Cautillo line, surrounding Mapos, and carrying out other missions, because it was necessary to watch all the routes, all the possible points, via which enemy reinforcements could arrive. In Palma, as in all the fundamental battles of the Rebel Army, a lot of tricks were used. I'm telling you about this because since you are from Palma, you may be interested in learning about some of these historical data about which very little or nothing has been published. [applause]

In fact, by that date, we did almost anything we wanted to with the enemy army. When we wanted them to make a particular movement, we got them to make that movement. We were really developing the art of provoking the enemy, of forcing them to move, of attacking them when they moved. And when there was no pretext to get them to move, it was enough for us to surround one of their units; then they had two choices: They either supported the unit by sending reinforcements -- in which case the reinforcements were destroyed en route -- or they did not send reinforcements to the garrison and the garrison ended up surrendering. Some held out longer, some less. In the early days of the war, they held out a very long time, because they believed we would take vengeance on them or they would be executed.

However, because from the beginning our army followed the policy of respecting the prisoners -- starting with our first victory, we took care of their wounded, we even freed them because we did not care so much about the number of enemy soldiers as we did about the number of arms that we needed -- the enemy soldiers had paradoxically acquired great confidence in the Rebel Army.

But the ones who did not want to surrender, who insisted on holding out, were holding up our offensive. We decided to keep the troops in Mapos surrounded and attacked the enemy forces in Palma. I was telling you that, as always, we used a lot of tricks. We always deceived them. We always started the fighting with a hard and unexpected blow in order to demoralize the troops. We would begin the siege. Then we would destroy the reinforcements. We would send them the messages that the reinforcements were taking to them. We used a prisoner to send them to the besieged garrison.

The plan for Palma, adhering to these principles, consisted of dealing them an initial blow. What was this blow to consist of? Every day a light plane flew from Santiago to Palma. It landed at a small airfield located next to the barracks and the sugar mill. It always brought in a commander, it appears that he came to encourage the troops, because they could not send any reinforcements. The enemy had been dislodged from dozens of miles of the Central Highway, and reinforcements that had left Santiago de Cuba for Palma some days earlier had been destroyed by forces commanded by Commander Duque. They could no longer send reinforcements, thus they would send messages to the troops in Palma.

We drew up a plan to begin operations. On the 23rd, at night, a force of the Third Front, which I believe was commanded by Comrade Lino Carrera, was authorized to harass a police station that I believe was located in the western part of the city. A simple harassment to deceive them, to confuse them, so that they would be confident. On the morning of the 24th, we began to carry out the plan, which consisted first of capturing the light plane, capturing the commander, and destroying the patrol that met him each time the plane arrived, because every morning a patrol left the barracks and went to the airfield to wait for the plane, and we wanted to deal them a blow to hurt their morale.

Several machine guns and some mortars were emplaced in a few high areas; we had to wait for the plane to arrive. There were a lot of raw recruits among our forces, a lot of new combatants, because the most experienced officers and men had joined the different columns -- the one that set off for the Second Front with Raul, Almeida's column, Camilo's, and Che's. And all the columns that constituted the different fronts always had the best troops and the most experienced. The recruits were left behind in the mountains, and they learned to fight by fighting. But they were new, they were not very experienced, although it can be said that they were very brave. Here is Comrade Lino. Lino, wasn't it you who attacked the police station that night? The 23rd? Okay. Thank you. [applause]

The first phase of the operation was to allow the aircraft to land and the patrol to reach the landing area. Once the patrol, the commander, and aircraft were there all together, then we would attack them with machine gun and mortar fire and destroy them. But at the same time, there was a group of men between the garrison and the airfield, whose mission was to destroy the reinforcements that would try to give support to those at the airfield. [laughter in the crowd]

Of course, everything was ready. The aircraft was circling the field; he was doomed to fall in the trap; he had to fall, but did not. Why? Because the men located between the garrison and the airfield, who were supposed to allow the patrol that was meeting the aircraft to go through and wait to attack the reinforcements coming out of the garrison for the airfield instead opened fire on the patrol going to the airfield as soon as they saw it and killed them all.

Consequently, the aircraft realized there was a battle going on below and did not land. The reinforcements did not come out of the garrison. We would have had better results if we would have captured the commander, destroyed the aircraft, the patrol meeting the commander, and the reinforcements. We felt that if the commander and the patrol meeting him were under attack, the garrison would immediately send reinforcements.

The garrison did not send reinforcements; instead it sent some men to explore the situation and withdrew to the sugar mill. That occurred on the 24th. They withdrew to the garrison and the sugar mill. They dug in at the sugar mill and gave us a fight which inflicted several casualties on us. Then they abandoned the sugar mill and withdrew to the garrison. That happened on the 24th.

The enemy forces were divided between the garrison and the city. They had seized several buildings here in Palma. There was a commander in the city in charge of the 104th Company; he was Commander Sierra. He was very stubborn, an enemy commander who had already fought against us in the Sierra Maestra Mountains.

That night we isolated the garrison, and a troop of the 17th Column, under the command of Filiberto... (leaves thought unfinished] I do not know if Filiberto is around here. Is Filiberto around here? [Castro addresses someone on the podium] We gave orders to Filiberto to cross the Cauto River during the night, and on the dawn of the 25th to seize the buildings located between the enemy troops in the city of Palma and the garrison. That way from the 24th to the 25th the enemy was divided into two sections. Those in the garrison could not go to the city, and those in the city could not go to the garrison.

On the 25th, we began the attack against the garrison. They had a 50-cal machine gun on the top. Guillermo was on that mission. We had a problem with the mortars. The way I talk, you would think we had lots of mortars and ammunition.

The truth of the matter was that our situation was very critical. The mortars had been taken from the enemy; the ammunition had been taken from the enemy. Sometimes we would run into a situation where the fuse of the projectile was missing or the cartridge was missing. There were very few projectiles, and we only used them in a psychological manner.

I can remember that in those days we had 60-mm cartridges whose fuses would not explode. Then some of our improvised technicians -- people of great imagination and courage -- invented a formula by which we would use phosphorus instead of powder to ignite the propelling cartridge. However, out of 10 projectiles, four or five would not work. Only four or five would fire.

In those days we had an 81-mm mortar in the Palma area with just a few projectiles, not many. On the 25th we attacked the garrison. We surrounded it, and used the 60-mm mortars. We saved the 81-mm mortar for the following day. First, a psychological pounding and then the 81-mm mortar. On the 26th they were still fighting, but when we used the 81-mm mortar, the shells fell right in the center of the garrison. One of the shells fell close to the 50-cal machine gun.

Very soon after that, I got word from Guillermo that the soldiers were surrendering. After the 10th 81-mm mortar shell, they raised the white flag. The garrison surrendered. [applause] They surrendered, and we seized more than 200 rifles, nearly 150 prisoners, and you can imagine what that booty meant to the rebel combatants in the early morning hours of the 26th.

But the city garrison continued to fight. At about 1300, we were able to seize one of the buildings which was being defended by 35 soldiers. However, the 104th Company continued to fight, and we were desperate to wind up operations.

We sent for a tank because we even had one that we had captured from the enemy on the Sierra Maestra. We transported it to Mapos, and it was in Mapos. We sent for the tank to see if we could make the 104th Company surrender that same night or the next morning. In Mapos, they continued to resist. We wanted to use the tank in Mapos. Then we received news that the company had begun to parley and that it was possible that it would surrender.

Then we ordered that the tank again turn toward Mapos, believing that conditions were right for the fighting to end in Palma. On the 27th, before dawn, when the company surrendered, we returned the tank to Mapos to attack the barracks, those warehouses that were converted into barracks or a fort in Mapos. I recall that on that dawn of the night of the 26th-27th, the crewmen of the tank did not strictly adhere to the instructions.

They rapidly advanced without scouting the barracks, and suddenly they encountered a crater made by a bomb from an airplane near the barracks. An enemy airplane had dropped the bomb days earlier. At that moment the tank was in danger of being lost.

That dawn in Mapos, at the gasoline station, they brought Commander (Sierra) to talk with me in the midst of a tremendous amount of shooting that was going on there. I did not want the man to know that at that moment we were experiencing difficulties in Mapos, and I tried to talk with him as calmly as possible. Then he began to talk about the conditions for surrender.

This commander had not been repressive with the peasants. He was one of the exceptions. He had not perpetrated any murders. He commanded his troops quite well, but it was necessary to convince him to surrender, and there at dawn we talked. We established the terms and I told him: No, if you have not perpetrated any war crimes, if you have not been repressive, why don't you come over to our side? Instead of surrendering so there will not be a defeat, you come over to the Rebel Army and you will retain your rank of commander. It was quite a generous offer, but we did not want to waste time. The man accepted and the problem of the tank was also resolved at dawn that day.

With the surrender of that company, the fighting in the city of Palma ended. For our part, we were impatient to advance on Santiago with all the strength of the three fronts. We had now carried out all of our plans, and about 1,200 men were going to be used in Santiago de Cuba. With the weapons that had been captured in Palma, we had not only finished arming ourselves, because we had captured 357 weapons, but we had also sent 50 of the automatic weapons that had been captured in Palma across the bay to the clandestine fighters in Santiago de Cuba. The clandestine movement had to participate in the liberation of Santiago de Cuba, and we had 1,200 men available to use in taking the city.

Actually, the enemy had 5,000 men, but this was nothing for our army at that time [Castro laughs, audience applauds]. Our army had always fought. [Castro changes thought] According to our calculations, the city would be liberated in 5 days, and we were going to apply the same formula that we used on the Sierra, along the highway, in Palma, everywhere, to Santiago de Cuba.

The chief of army operations had met with us. They had acknowledged that the war was lost, and we began to discuss the formula of how the war was going to end, which is a long story that I do not want to tell here.

We set forth our conditions. They had traveled in a helicopter. At the former Oriente Sugar Mill, the chief of the operations troops met with me. I suggested to him that he not go to Havana. I suggested to him that he encourage the Santiago de Cuba garrison to rebel, and that he not conclude the war with a humiliating defeat, because there were still cadres, officers, who could be saved. I told him that we could call it an uprising of the Santiago garrison, which would join the revolutionary forces and eliminate the tyranny.

He insisted on traveling to Havana. I advised him not to do so because he could have problems, and that when the uprising in Santiago occurred it would be certain that the regime would be liquidated, because the island was already divided in two.

In Oriente, thousands of soldiers were surrounded. He said he had a brother, who was chief of a regiment, and that he had to go and that there were no problems.

Then we put forth three conditions: first, that he should not speak with the U.S. Embassy. [Castro changes his mind] Or first, that there should not be a coup in the capital. That was the first condition. Second, that he should not speak with the U.S. Embassy. Third, that they should not help Batista to escape. If we could not prevent him from escaping, that was one thing, but under no circumstances was he to be helped to escape.

That general went to Havana. We had planned an operation against Santiago for about 1 January. After taking Palma, we were waiting for the chief of the field troops to carry out the agreements he had made, but he left for Havana and did the opposite of the three things that we had demanded as conditions. He met with [personnel of] the Yankee Embassy they took leave of Batista at the airport the night of the 31st, and they carried out a coup d'etat in the capital. He did the three things that were the exact opposite of the conditions we had established.

Then rapidly from this very city, on 1 January, instructions for a revolutionary general strike were broadcast on Radio Rebelde, and orders were given to all the troops of all the columns throughout Cuba to continue advancing. Instructions were rapidly given to our forces to advance on Santiago. We did not want the operations to cease or a truce to be established. We sent a patrol along the Central Highway towards Santiago. I was explaining to you earlier that in Santiago we were going to use the same strategy. They had the Moncada Barracks, and battalions stationed in El Caney, in Boniato, in Loma de Quintero, at the airport, and several buildings in the city.

We were going to begin by picking off one battalion after another. The first was to be the Boniato; we were going to surround it and deploy our main force on the route between the Moncada Barracks and Boniato. The second day we were going to surround the battalion in El Caney and deploy most of the rebel forces -- 300 men -- on the route between the Moncada Barracks and El Caney. The second day we would have two battalions surrounded, and we would have possibly destroyed two groups of reinforcements, because wherever we deployed our troops, no reinforcements could pass. That was guaranteed.

The third day we were going to surround the airport and deploy another force between the airport and the Moncada Barracks. The fourth day we planned on surrounding the battalion in Loma de Quintero and deploying most of the troops in the buildings located between the Moncada Barracks and Loma de Quintero. On the fifth day, with about 100 weapons, the uprising was to take place in the city. That is, on the fifth day we would have surrounded four battalions, and some would have possibly surrendered by then; various groups of reinforcements would have been destroyed, and the city would be up in arms.

We planned the uprising in the city to be done this way: We had eight machineguns in La Zocata, and there were two frigates that could not leave Santiago de Cuba Bay because the entrance to the bay is too narrow at La Zocata. Those frigates could fire at targets several kilometers away, but could not fight within a distance of 300 meters [sentence as heard]. Thus we had completely blockaded two of the three frigates that the National Army had in Santiago de Cuba.

On 1 January, we had to speed up everything. When the coup d'etat took place in the capital, we sent a patrol with Rene de los Santos along the Central Highway with orders to approach the battalion at [Loma de] Quintero, give them five minutes to surrender, and if they did not, to open fire. We did not want a truce so there would not be the slightest possibility that the coup d'etat could be consolidated. We went along paths towards El Caney; in those days there were no highways in that area. However, when we got close, messengers from the army began to show up everywhere. We called a meeting of all the officers of the garrison at Moncada Barracks -- who could have imagined it! -- and we explained to them the agreements this general had made with us, how he had not carried them out, and then, meeting with about 300 officers, we persuaded them not to put up any resistance, not to obey orders from the Havana General Staff, and to place themselves under the orders of the Rebel Army. They accepted.

What I did not know at that time when I was talking with the officers was that the patrol we had sent along the Central Highway had reached Loma de Quintero, the battalion had offered no resistance, the patrol had reached the Moncada Barracks, and there were rebel officers and men inside the Moncada Barracks at that moment. [applause]

It was precisely in the city of Palma, on 1 January, that the final orders of the war were given to the Rebel Army and the people.

It will never be possible to forget the amazing unanimous way that all the workers in the country respected the order for a general strike, all of them, unanimously. [applause] Even the communications workers. The television and radio workers made the decision to allow Radio Rebelde to transmit through a network of all the domestic radio stations. From that moment on, Radio Rebelde transmitted through all the radio and television networks. [applause] The enemy was totally paralyzed; our troops were advancing.

Camilo and Che were ordered to rapidly continue towards the capital, one was to take La Cabana and the other Columbia. By that time, the enemy forces were totally demoralized, and from that moment on they offered no resistance.

Thus, for Palma we have two very important historical dates: 27 December and 1 January [applause], as dates related to the city, apart from the fact these victories and 1 January constituted a historic date for the entire country.

And then, you will ask me what happened in the meantime with Mapos. Well, they finally surrendered. Palma gave us a small bit of help when we took Mapos; there was a large fire engine with a capacity of 5,000 or 6,000 liters -- I don't know how much -- water. Well, we converted that fire engine into a fearful weapon. We filled it with gasoline. Really, I am sorry that I do not know exactly how many gallons of gasoline fit into that fire engine. It was large, and we filled it. I wonder if some mayor of Palma had bought the fire engine, [Castro laughs] but, in fact, Palma had its own fire engine. We filled it with gasoline from the gasoline station here and we sent it to Mapos.

The tank had already been repaired. The problem was that when it hit a large hole it did not have a reverse gear [to get out]. [Castro laughs] The reverse gear had been damaged, but because of this, the tank was almost lost. The truth of the matter is that the drivers, who were not really tank drivers but tractor drivers, heroes, brave men who were there managed to save the tank from going into the barracks by turning it around. [applause] They saved the tank.

Now, with the tank going ahead, and the fire engine filled with gasoline, we were equipped so that we would not surrender to anything, because we were firing with cannons. We had some tank cannons that we had dismounted. We had taken the cannons from damaged tanks, and we were using them against the Mapos warehouses. We used bazookas, mortars, everything. Those individuals, who had gone into underground shelters they had built below the concrete, did not surrender. From time to time, someone would come out; a soldier would desert.

We sent them a message exhorting them to surrender; they refused. We knew that they had little food left, very little now. Because we had surrounded the garrison, we had an idea of how much water and food they had.

When the tank and the fire engine were ready, I believe this was the 28th, about the 28th, we either requested or they sent us an emissary. At that time we were not very interested in talking with them. Our plan was to flood the warehouses -- whose roofs were full of holes -- with gasoline, move the fire engine forward, led and protected by the tank, fill the warehouse with gasoline and ignite it.

I am sure that would have caused chaos. I do not have the slightest doubt about it. However, they did not want to surrender. Then they sent an emissary, not an emissary but the one who was in charge of the garrison, a lieutenant. There had been a commander there, but he had practically given up command to the lieutenant, and it was the lieutenant who wanted to continue resisting.

Well, I said to the lieutenant: Look, you know that we have occupied all the cities within so many kilometers of here. You know that our line has reached El Cautillo. Are you aware of that? Yes. Do you know that all reinforcements have been destroyed. Yes. Do you know that you do not have any possibility for success nor the possibility to save yourselves, that you are lost? Yes.

I told him: Well, you know it, don't you? Do you know that you only have a little water? He said: No. Nonsense. We have dug a well. [laughter] You have dug a well, no. But you know that you only have a little food left now, right? We had found that out from some who [had surrendered]. He said: No. Nonsense. I have enough food left for a month. I told him: You say you have enough food for a month. Now, after your your food runs out, supposing you have enough for 5 months, after you run out of food, what are you going to do? He said: I would surrender. I told him: No, then you would commit suicide, you and all the officers of the battalion [applause], because if you choose to fight, knowing that you have lost, that all reinforcements have been destroyed, that you do not have any possibility to continue fighting here, sacrificing the lives of revolutionary fighters, sacrificing the lives of soldiers, then you will have to commit suicide, and I sent him away.

A few minutes later, Dante's inferno would have begun there in those warehouses, but those inside did not give the rebels time, because they reflected, immediately sent a message, and laid down their weapons. Thus ended the fighting at Mapos, and it was not necessary to use Palma's fire engine -- which had been converted into a terrible weapon that would have truly marked the end of that battalion.

Really, as I was telling you, despite the time that has gone by, I can assure you all that the comrades who participated in those actions, all the comrades who have been invited to this ceremony, who participated in the liberation of Palma, can precisely recall those details, because these are events that can never be forgotten. I can imagine that these young men from the publishing house and printing plant cannot. The director told me that their average age is 24 years. It is very satisfying, isn't it, to contrast now, to remember, and to note that the vast majority of the workers at this publishing house and printing plant were not born on 27 December 1959 [date as heard]

However, I feel that there are many here among the citizens of Palma, whether they live here or not -- I know that the city and population of Palma have grown a lot since the triumph of the revolution, I know there are many Palma citizens in Havana, Santiago de Cuba, and other places and they are here today as guests -- who will remember very well that emotional day which we commemorate today. [applause]

Many 25th anniversaries of historic events have been commemorated, very important historic events, including the Jigue battle, Guisa -- I am mentioning those in which we participated on the Sierra Maestra in addition to all the battles and victories in various places of the national territory. However, those in which we participated -- many have been commemorated this year -- were the Jigue battle, the major offensive, the Guisa battle, the liberation of Mapos, the liberation of Baire, Jiguani, and Contramestre. We would have liked to visit all those places and attend the ceremonies, but there were so many and the work that many of us have today is very complex and very demanding, making it impossible to attend all those commemorations.

But even though we celebrate the 25th anniversary on 1 January, I did not want to miss this anniversary here in the city of Palma. [applause]

This printing house could have been inaugurated before. Without having been completed, it began to produce in 1982. However, we asked the comrades to wait, because we wanted to dedicate it, and that is why it was delayed.

I have another debt around here in the former Oriente Province -- an excellent hospital which was completed in Guantanamo and which is waiting for its dedication. Even though the hospital has been operating for quite a while, it is waiting to be dedicated.

The dedication here conincided with the anniversary of the liberation, [applause] and it is always better to dedicate a center already in operation. We can observe it producing books with its young workers, as we have done today. It is a great satisfaction to know that this publishing house is not only the largest in Cuba, but I also understand that it is possibly perhaps the largest and most modern in Latin America. [applause]

The comrade director explained to me some of the characteristics of this printing house. It occupies an area of 118,000 square meters. It has a roofed area of 32,000 square meters. As he said, it can produce 30 million books. The equipment is the most modern in the world today. It was built with the cooperation of Sweden.

The Swedish Government [applause] at the beginning of last decade, decided to undertake economic cooperation with Cuba and to contribute to our country's development in some way. Over a period of several years, it made yearly contributions -- which reached the amount of $10 million per year -- as donations to our country. This is a part of the policy traditionally observed by Sweden of contributing to the development of Third World countries.

Sweden is a well-developed country, not too large in territory, and with a population smaller than Cuba's. It has internationally characterized itself by its support and contributions to many countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

At a time when our country was intensely enduring the U.S. blockade and U.S. efforts directed at impeding our development, we have to be very thankful -- not because of the amount, which is not small if compared to the resources our country has invested in development, the amounts are small, but if separately examined they are not that small -- we have to be thankful for the gesture, not the amount, but the just friendly gesture [applause], that is what we are thankful for. Despite U.S. pressures and the U.S. blockade, Sweden has been one of the few Western nations that has cooperated with our development, one of the few to make this type of contribution to our country.

From the very beginning, we decided we were going to assign these Swedish donations to public health and education.

Little by little, education has become more costly and has developed more needs, because after the triumph of the revolution, there was an enormous baby boom -- as you people of Palma should know, because you are among those whose population grew the most in that period. You should know what a population explosion is.

The education sector then wound up with the major portion of the Swedish donations. In this way, several programs were carried out to develop means for education, to acquire laboratory equipment, and the large quantity of materials that were needed, and to build a center to produce audiovisual material for education. But most important of all, it was decided to use part of this donation to build this publishing center in Palma. [applause]

This is the most important work we have done with Swedish cooperation, and it will undoubtedly be a permanent achievement and a reason for gratitude to the Swedish people for their generous cooperation.

We had an enormous need for books, and this is not the only investment that has been made in the publishing sector. Not long ago we inaugurated the center in Guantanamo, which can produce 20 million books. Others have been built in Havana, and several publishing plants have been modernized and expanded. Therefore, our current capacity for printing books should be more than 80 million. The combined capacity of this plant and the Guantanamo plant is 50 [million], so total capacity should be between 80 and 90 million. Armando [Minister of Culture Armando Hart] should know. Counting all of them, including those at the universities, capacity is between 80 and 90 million.

So, you figure it out: Our educational sector needs several million books for primary, secondary, and higher education. As a matter of fact, although more than 20 million books are being printed every year for the Education Ministry, it is still not enough. This is still insufficient. We have to add the needs of our population, because of the extraordinary upsurge in the educational and cultural levels of our people.

There is an enormous demand for literary works that cannot be completely satisfied. There is a large demand for technical books because of the development of our country, our advances in science and technology, and the growing number of professionals with university training that Cuba has today. All of this generates a demand for tens, hundreds of thousands, even millions of books. That is to say, we have been creating large capacities to satisfy those very important and very sacred needs, because we could say that this need for books is for the revolution, and for our people it is a sacred need that gives an indication of the advances of education, science, technology, and culture in our country.

However, we do not need printing plants only. We also need paper, and our paper producing capacity has also been expanded. We are about to begin operations at a large pulp and paper factory at the Uruguay central. We have been building it [words indistinct]. It should produce many thousands of tons of paper pulp. This paper will be made basically with sugarcane husks as raw material, and will resolve many problems. We have a scarcity of paper, and we import it, of course, from the socialist countries. But we also have to import from capitalist counties, and some plants, such as this one, need high-quality paper in order to print in the best possible fashion.

However, I know that the technicians and the workers have been trying to work with other types of paper. This plant, operating at full capacity, will need more than 12,000 tons of paper, and paper of a certain level of quality. I have already noticed that they are using newsprint from the Soviet Union, and they are making tests. We believe that with the Uruguay plant we will be able to satisfy a large portion of this plant's paper requirements. If I am not mistaken, what percentage of the demand can this plant satisfy? [Muffled response from unidentified person] From 60 to 70 percent.

Therefore, this plant is part of the efforts being made in the paper industry. We are all desperate for this plant to begin functioning and reach its maximum capacity. There is an enormous need for it in our country. Despite the number of books produced in 1982 and 1983, the goal set for 1984 is 9 million books. Here we produce books not only to fill our needs, but also to export. We have seen some of the smaples of the books that this plant produces for export purposes.

Of course as our needs expand, we won't have too many to export, but as long as we can export some, we will do so, because this allows us to acquire the foreign exchange needed to maintain the plant and for the raw materials required on a daily basis, which have to be purchased. It is good to see that in this industry there is interest, enthusiasm, and an export-oriented awareness. We have to spend money so that this plant can achieve its maximum capacity.

However, raw materials and machinery are not enough. We need trained personnel. A large number of the personnel at this plant were trained in our country, others were trained in the USSR, and 1 of the 26 technicians was trained in the GDR. The plant's director told me that for a plant such as this to reach its maximum capacity, a period of approximately 6 years is required. This would include the 2 years that have already passed -- 1982 and 1983. This means we still have 4 more years to go.

Everything related to the training of personnel is very important. We all saw one machine operating. I believe it was a book cover machine. I felt the machine was operating much too slowly, and I told the director this. I told him the machine was operating too slow. He said yes, it is, but it is going slow because we still can't operate it properly. He said that the machine can produce 8,000 covers per shift, but right now it is only producing 4,000. The very young personnel have not fully mastered the machines. It looks easy, but when you are involved in a sophisticated industry such as this -- even a surgarmill, with all the experience we have in that field -- you cannot reach maximum capacity in the first year. You begin by achieving 30 percent, then up to 50 percent, and this is done with the help of experienced workers. Yesterday a group of workers at the 30 November sugarmill in Pinar del Rio were happy to tell us that they had already ground more than 600,000 arrobas -- 630,000 arrobas to be exact -- and that the sugar mill only has a capacity to grind 600,000 arrobas. [applause] It takes time. It may seem easy, but it is not. With a new sugarmill, despite the fact that this is an industry in which we have greater experience, we still need time for it to produce on a continuous basis. It not only needs qualified personnel, but the equipment and the machinery must also be maintained.

I'll give you another example: the Holguin sugarcane combine factory. During the first year they only produced about 60 combines, but this year, 1983, with a formidable collective of workers, at a factory with a capacity for 600 combines, they will have -- according to the recent figures I have received -- produced 648 sugarcane combines through 31 December 1983. [applause] They have surpassed the factory's capacity. The day will come when we will be able to say that the Palma publishing center is producing more than 30 million books, or at least 30 million books. The day will come. [applause] We have no doubts. Experience has taught us that our workers can solve any problem and fulfill any task. A person becomes aware of this when he sees the technicians [words indistinct] the young people, the enthusiasm, and the seriousness of these workers.

This publishing center also represents a source of jobs for this municipality. A single shift can provide work for more than 500 workers, and the 3 shifts provide work for more than 1,000 workers. It is the most important industrial center built in Palma in the past years. The revolution decided that the plant would be established here; it is a policy of our party to share the industrial development and distribute industry throughout the country. Years ago, only sugarmills were built in this area. During the past 25 years the revolution has shown more concern for the integral development of the rural areas than for the development of the capital city. Many industries have been built throughout the various provinces during the past few years. Not only industries have been built, however. Schools, hospitals, houses, and agricultural development programs have been developed during the past 25 years.

Since we are speaking of Palma, I hope you will not mind if I say a few things about Santiago de Cuba Province. No, don't be frightened by all these papers. I will use them only to quote some figures. However, I do wish to speak a little about the province, because during my 26 July speech, I mentioned it only briefly. Some people asked themselves why Companero Fidel did not mention the work being done here. They wanted to learn about developments in the province over the past few years. They could not understand why I did not speak about Santiago de Cuba Province, and the explanation is quite simple.

Even though 26 July is a national holiday, during the events to commemorate that day, which are always held in a different province, we expand on the work being done and the achievements of the province. However, the 30th anniversary of 26 July was not an event for the province alone. It was a national event. We had to speak about the day, the revolution, and what it had achieved during the 30 years since the attack on the Moncada Barracks. The day was not appropriate to speak of the province. The 26 July event was not one to quote figures; it was a day to speak of ideas and concepts.

I faced the same dilemma the day after during the inauguration of the textile factory. Should I speak of what the province had achieved in the past few years, or should I speak of what the country had achieved? There was only one thing I could do: speak of what the country had achieved, because otherwise the event would never have ended. We would have had to mention all that has been achieved within the country and how Santiago de Cuba Province had advanced. [applause]

However, on this 27 December, I wish to say a few things regarding the exploits of Santiago de Cuba Province in the construction of socialism. You should know how many people live in this province -- almost a million. Growing like you grow, [laughter] you may soon reach a million. I am not suggesting that you hurry up. [laughter]

Here's an interesting piece of information: The population growth rate in 1953 was 3 percent -- you should see the figures for the 1960's [laughter] -- currently it is 1.3 percent. This is more rational growth. You can appreciate the influence of books, literature, night classes, television, education, and so forth. Women are involved in production, services, and political and revolutionary activities. They can't work for the federations and attend to 14 children as they did during the past century. That would be impossible. An index of higher culture is demonstrated when the growth of the family is on a rational basis. This is important for the country. When we were faced with the baby boom in the 1960's we had to build a great number of schools, day care centers, secondary schools, technical schools, and so forth. We now have some breathing room but it is said that the curve is heading upward again. [laughter] Experts have associated this with the 1960's baby boom. They say that a young population multiplies too quickly. That is their scientific explanation. [Castro chuckles] There are some people out there who are quite frightened. Companero Fernandez [Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez] is terrified and keeps up to date on the figures, checking on how the problem is growing, and he threatens to ask for more funds in his budget for schools. We need the schools right now, for the primary schools' double shifts. This is one of the future objectives of our education program.

In the old Santiago de Cuba Province we had eight sugarmills, six rum factories, and some coffee processing plants. There was only one electrical plant, which could not produce more than 20,000 kilowatts. Some say 30,000, others 20,000 kilowatts. But the old plant.... [changes thought] What was the name? Hector Pavon. Does it still function? It must consume a lot of fuel -- at least 400 grams per kilowatt.

The oil byproduct industry began in 1956 with a U.S. refinery. Today it is a Cuban refinery. The construction industry had four areas where stones could be gathered for construction, a factory where clay pipes and bricks were made, and a few quarries. The cement factory began operations in 1956. The food industry, aside from the rum and beer factories, consisted of some refreshment factories and two canned food factories. Light industry was represented by a socks factory and a sandal factory that was later closed. Some handicrafts also represented this industry.

Now then, just to cite one period and not the full 25 years of the revolution, more or less from the date that Santiago de Cuba province was created by the political-administrative division, more than 30 important industrial plants, which either replace imports or produce for export, have been built between 1976 and 1983. From 1978 to 1982, our gross industrial production increased by more than 200 million pesos.

To give an example, in electricity, we increased our capacity to generate 20,000 kw in 1959 to our current capacity of 460,000 kw. In other words, the capacity to generate electric power has increased 23-fold. This is very important index that gives us an idea of the economic and social development of this province, when its electricity capacity has had to increase to a level 23 times greater than existed at the time of the revolution's triumph. [applause]

The petroleum refinery was nationalized. Its capacity was expanded in 1965, and a new refinery is being installed with the current expansion. In 1982 it reached a production level of 2,343,000 tons. A plant for the production of grease and another for lubricants have been built. There are also industrial gas plants. The steel tool industry has developed and continues to be developed with the opening of the truck repair plant; the screws, nails, and tools factory; and other plants.

In the construction material industry, an important production base has been created. In addition to the expansion of the cement plant in 1965, a plain door factory, an asbestos cement plant, two sand washers, a polyfoam plant, Soviet prefabricated house panels [plantas de vivienda gran panel Sovietica] plants, the IMS [Serbian Materials Institute], stonecrushers, tile factories, asbestos cement pipe factories, a terrazo tile factory, prefabricated elements factories, and others were built.

The food industry has also strongly developed with the opening of several plants, among which are notably the expansion of the wheat mill, the pasta factory, the poultry slaughterhouse, the candy factory, the soft drink factory, two pasteurization plants, ice cream factories, bakeries, the expansion of the drinks factory, the butter factory, the cream cheese factory, three ice plants, and an oatmeal plant.

Light industry has also undergone significant growth; it will grow even more with the help of the textile plant, which will produce 80 million square meters of fabric. [applause] Soon the Orientales will no longer have to import fabric from Ariguanabo or Havana, because they will be able to produce all they need here in Santiago de Cuba Province. Neither will they have to import books. In the past, all books and other things also came from the capital.

Other important industrial projects have been undertaken, including the one that we are inaugurating today, the honey and wax plant, the citrus processing plant, and the introduction of new equipment for the coffee processing mill.

The province has expanded its list of export products. In addition to the traditional sugar, rum, and coffee, the number of export products has been expanded to 22. Citrus fruits are outstanding. In 1982, 36,842 tons were produced for export. Honey, handicrafts, and other products also stand out.

From 1977 to 1982, when the new political-administrative division was carried out, the revolution invested more than a billion pesos in this province, of which 576 million were used for construction and installation and 332 million pesos for equipment. It must be noted that we have not had to work. [sentence as heard] Before it was a single province. Now, when I mention all of these projects in Santiago de Cuba, we must also bear in mind that these projects have been implemented in Holguin, Bayamo, Granma Province, Manzanillo, Las Tunas, and Guantanamo; those being implemented in Moa; those being implemented and will continue to be implemented -- the new iron and steel plant that is being built in the northern part of the former Oriental Province, which is the area of Holguin. In order to have an idea of the dimension and the effort of these projects, we cannot look only at what has been done in Santiago de Cuba, in the current province of Santiago de Cuba, but at what has been done throughout the former Oriental Province.

You have been able to see how the cities have changed -- Bayamo, Manzanillo, Santiago, Guantanamo, Holguin -- since I entered this way. I haven't seen Palma today, but I imagine that it has also developed, especially in the construction of housing.

In agriculture, the province produces 100,000 tons of sugar more than it did in 1977. Food production, which amounted to 98,000 quintals, while in 1982 it amounted to 206,000 quintals. Citrus production in 1977 was 329,200 quintals, while it currently amounts to 1.3 million quintals in this province. Coffee production in 1977 was 160,000 quintals, while it has increased to 193,609 in 1982. All industrial and agricultural sectors have considerably increased during this period.

Now we must take a look at education. What happened in this province before the revolution? A total of 61 percent of the children of this province between 6 and 9 years old were illiterate. In Palma Soriano, this figure was 83.8 percent. In Alto Songo, it was 88.3 percent, and in San Luis it was 85.6 percent. The illiteracy rate for children 10 years and older was 39.2 percent in Palma Soriano, 38.6 percent in San Luis, and 47.2 percent in Alto Songo.

The following information can better illustrate the educational situation in the former Oriente Province: It is estimated that in 1953, from a total population of 1,457,668 who were 6 years old or older, 645,706 had not attended school. The school population of children and young people between the ages of 6 and 16 years has increased to 93.9 percent from the 43.1 percent of 30 years ago, when the attack on the Moncada Barracks was carried out.

At the present time, school registration at every level and for every kind of education amounts to 335,954 of a total population of 914,000. This means that in this province at least one -- or, according to these figures, a little over one -- out of every three people is going to school.

Santiago de Cuba is now the province with the second largest number of students and the leading province in the student-population ratio, with 37 students per 100 inhabitants. This province has 88 basic secondary schools, 20 pre-university institutes, 1 general vocational school, and 3 universities. It also has 25 polytechnic and technical centers, 1 teachers college, 1 arts school, and 170 more educational centers.

Santiago de Cuba is one of the country's top provinces in terms of the number of students who remain in school and graduate. This province now has 107,000 students attending secondary school. This is twice as many as the number of students in all of the former Oriente Province in 1963, 20 years ago. This province has twice as many secondary school students as the entire former Oriente Province had 20 years ago.

There are 22,000 students attending 3 universities in this province. This is eight times the number of university students in all of Oriente Province 20 years ago. In other words, we now have eight times as many university students in Santiago de Cuba Province as we had in the entire former Oriente Province 20 years ago. [applause] In Santiago de Cuba Province alone, there are 7,000 more university students than there were in the entire country before the revolution. [applause]

In the former Oriente Province there was only one special education school. Now, in Santiago de Cuba Province alone, there are 34 centers of this kind with a registration of 4,460 children and youths.

At present, 7,400 children are attending child care centers [circulos infantiles]. This figure is eight times greater than the number of children who attended this kind of school in all of Oriente Province.

It has been reported that the enrollment in the 9th grade is moving forward at an acceptable pace. From 1980 to date, we have graduated more than 18,000 workers. This represents 31 percent of the goal for 1985.

We have some data for the public health sector:

Hospitals: Before 1959, we had eight hospitals in this province, and you know how they worked. Today we have 26. Of these, seven are rural hospitals.

Before 1959, there were 1,334 hospital beds. There are now 5,022. There were no polyclinics; there are now 26. There were no rural dispensaries; there are now 16. There were no stomatological clinics; we now have two.

The number of doctors at state-run institutions: There were 180 before 1959; we now have 1,225.

Stomatologists at state-run institutions: There were 2; we now have 341.

Infant mortality: This data is inaccurate, but it is estimated that the figure was 60 percent before the revolution. Many were not counted; no one counted them. In 1983, the infant mortality rate was 18.4 percent.

The per capita budget for the public health sector before 1959 was 3.30 pesos, part of which was stolen. In 1983, the per capita budget for the health sector was 69.27 pesos. In other words, it has risen between 15 and 20 times more than that which was spent before the revolution.

We have a higher institute of medical sciences, with two schools of medicine and one of stomatology. The registration figure in early 1983 was 2,580 medical students, 712 (?stomatology students), and 60 nursing students.

In addition, the province has two polytechnical health institutes and a polytechnical school with 1,930 students.

We have some information on housing; 55.3 percent of the total number of houses built in the province were built after 1959. In other words, we've built more than 100,000 homes in recent years. In 1953, 47 percent of the houses had electricity. Now, 72.2 percent of the houses have this utility. This increase is more noticeable in the rural sector.

There is other data that reveals the province's economic and social growth, its colossal progress in education, health, and economic development. As I was saying, we must not only look at the data for Santiago de Cuba, but at the development of the rest of the old Oriental region. How have we achieved these advances? What did we have in 1959, when the revolution was victorious? How many doctors, engineers, and experienced cadres did we have? We had 6,000 doctors, and 3,000 of them left the country. We began our revolution in health with only 3,000. Now we have 20,000 who are studying and 2,000 graduate each year. About 5,000 are entering medical school. At the outset of the revolution, we did not even have 5,000 secondary school graduates.

Today, about 5,000 medical and stomatology students are entering medical school. We are going to have all of the doctors that we need. We will not have an excess of doctors, because there can never be too many doctors. We now have 19,000 after 25 years of revolution. We have gone from 3,000 to 19,000 in 25 years. [applause] Do you know how many we are going to see graduate in the next 16 years? About 50,000 doctors. [applause] Will our people's health be guaranteed? What do you think?

In other words, it is easier now. In the early years it was more difficult, because no one had experience, there were no trained cadres and personnel, we didn't have the hundreds of thousands of technicians and qualified workers that the revolution has trained, we didn't have enough teachers -- we had to look for a sixth grade student or a citizen with a sixth-or seventh-grade education to give him a course and send him to school.

Today, we have more than 30,000 in primary schools, if Fernandez [Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez] doesn't correct me on this figure. We have tens of thousands studying in higher education centers, learning to be primary and secondary school teachers and higher education professors. Everyone has a primary school diploma. We already have a reserve of teachers that permits us to send other teachers to renew their knowledge and study. When 10,000 fewer graduate, it means that 10,000 teachers are going to be left without jobs. [sentence as heard] When the revolution triumphed, there were 10,000 unemployed teachers. One of the first things the revolution did was to create 10,000 classrooms. But it was difficult to find a teacher who would come to the mountains and the countryside. How many are we graduating every year, Fernandez? [Answer indistinct] No, how many are we graduating by year? [Answer indistinct] No, no, I am talking of primary schools; 5,000 a year. Do you have any unemployed, Fernandez? [Answer indistinct] He says we have about 4,500 abroad and about 3,000 studying full time. The fact that we have more teachers does not mean that unemployment exists, as was the case in our country and as, unfortunately, happens in many countries. Instead, we put new teachers to work and we encourage old teachers to study and improve themselves. There must be a continuous advance and effort to improve our teaching personnel. The time will come when classes in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades will be taught not by teachers who have graduated as primary school teachers, but by university graduates. Still, we had to begin gradually. We first had to ask the committee, the unions, and the young people to look for those with some training, so that we could make them teachers. Just 12 or 13 years ago, 70 percent of our primary school teachers did not have diplomas. The teaching students entered from the sixth grade. Now all of them have diplomas. They enter from the ninth grade and in the future, they will be university graduates.

Our country's prospects are truly promising in all fields. We have accumulated mass experience and knowledge that we did not have in 1959. Back then, there was a lot of good will, but also a lot of ignorance, a lot of good ideas but no experience. I think it is satisfactory, when approaching the commemoration of the 25th anniversary and on commemorating the liberation of Palma, to be able to express, to point out, and to stress these advances made in the Province of Santiago de Cuba.

The people of Santiago were asking not only why I hadn't spoken about the work of Santiago de Cuba, but also why I hadn't spoken of Companero Balaguer [Jose Ramon Balaguer, Cuban Communist Party Central Committee member and Santiago de Cuba Province executive first secretary]. [applause] Every 26 July, when there is an event in a province, there is recognition of the work of the party and the companero secretary of the party and its directorate, and I said nothing about that on this 26 July. What happened, exactly? It was a national event with international topics, with a number of general ideas, and I could not express specific recognition of the party leadership and the party secretary. But I learned that some were commenting and asking: Could it be that Companero Balaguer has not worked well? Is it that Companero Balaguer does not have the confidence and support of the party directorate? Far from it. When I learned that there were some rumors about this, I spoke with Companero Balaguer. I know that he is not worried about it at all. It was just the opposite. We are truly pleased, enthusiastic, and aware of the excellent work done by the party in Santiago de Cuba Province and especially by Companero Balaguer. [applause]

Companero Balaguer is one of our 19,000 doctors. I don't know if he is counted in the overall figure or not, because there are some doctors who have gone beyond the field of medicine. Sergio del Valle is also a doctor, as is Machadito [not further identified], as we affectionately call him; the mayor of Havana is also a doctor. Some doctors.... [Castro changes thought] It seems that some doctors had political and revolutionary inclinations. They even went to the Sierra Maestra. They didn't come forth after the revolution's victory. Many doctors joined the Rebel Army, with Che. [applause]

Che joined as a doctor. Later on, he continued as a fighter and developed into a great military cadre member. There are many doctors who joined to help us as doctors and who ended up as fighters and leaders.

I used to complain when we didn't have enough doctors, because doctors would arrive to do a certain kind of work and [words indistinct].

Now, with the news I have given about the doctors we will have, we can be a little bit more relaxed, but this isn't an open invitation to send doctors to do other jobs. They must continue their work, because we will need them.

Companero Balaguer is one of these cases of revolutionary doctors who joined our army. I am not going to say much about him. However, I want to note that it is very difficult to find a more humble companero than Balaguer. [applause] It is also difficult to find one who is more enthusiastic and more devoted to his work -- personal work, as well as teamwork. This results in the development of the party and in advances for the province.

We have made efforts throughout the country to choose the best cadres for each task within the state, within the party, the economic production sector, and the services. In general, we are pleased with the party's efforts throughout the country and the efforts made by the party's cadres. We have many cadres with much experience. We didn't have them when the revolution triumphed.

We have many cadres with much experience and who are also young. They are a guarantee of constant development and the future of our revolution. Therefore, I am taking advantage of this occasion to congratulate the companeros of the party of Palma, the People's Government of Palma [applause], and the companeros of the party of Santiago de Cuba Province and the people's power in Santiago de Cuba. [applause]

As you can tell, I have been talking for quite some time here, and you must want to continue your commemoration of 27 December, but I don't want to end before I refer to the name of this magnificent industry. It is named after companera Haydee Santamaria. [applause]

We are very pleased to see that the Palma people, the Palma party and the Palma People's Government, the Santiago party and people's government, proposed Haydee's name for this industry.

Haydee has a revolutionary history that is truly beautiful. It began with the foundation of the 26 July Movement. When Abel [Santamaria] joined the movement, he joined it at the very beginning. He played an extraordinary role in all that preceded 26 July 1953.

Haydee -- a modest, hardworking, tireless, and very humble companera -- completely devoted herself to the revolutionary cause since that time. She helped us very much.

She behaved brilliantly. She had extraordinary courage. She not only helped in moving weapons -- and back in the days that preceded 26 July we had to move a lot of weapons and bullets; we secretly carried them in suitcases -- she also helped during the Moncada days, the days following Moncada, in jail, in the clandestine life, in the organization of the movement, on 30 November, again in the clandestine life, in the Sierra Maestra, and in the revolution. Yeye's [referring to Haydee Santamaria] name is forever united with the prestige of the revolution in Cuba and Latin America. [applause]

It must be said that she worked in many areas, but the work she did at the head of the Casa de las Americas has had extraordinary repercussions in the areas of culture and literature in Latin America. Today, Casa de las Americas is the most prestigious institution of its kind on our continent. [applause]

It also has international prestige that goes far beyond this continent. The most prominent literary figures in Latin America have participated, in one way or another, in Casa de las Americas events. Many of them knew Yeye and many of them, all who knew her, talk about her with great recognition and respect.

This institution also made the general work of the revolution and its literary and cultural work well known. Companera Haydee Santamaria devoted her best efforts to this task. Therefore, there can be nothing more logical, adequate, and just than for an institution like this -- where something as valuable as books, which influence others and which are very important for our people's educational and cultural development, are produced -- to carry the honorable and glorious name of Haydee Santamaria. [applause] Fatherland or death, we will win!

Castro Tours Palma Soriano

FL290052 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Excerpts] After the conclusion of the gala ceremony at the modern Haydee Santamaria Publishing House and Printing Plant, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made an interesting tour of the city of Palma Soriano beginning at the house where Sonia Rodriguez Cardona, a former fighter in the Rebel Army and currently an alternate member of the Central Committee and a deputy to the People's Government National Assembly, lived.

During the visit, which the people of Palma Soriano enthusiastically supported with cheers for Fidel and the revolution, our leader was accompanied by Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province, and Emilio Conde Perez, first secretary of the muncipality, and other leaders of the party and the government.

Once inside the house, located at 109 16th Street, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers expressed the need for the municipality of Palma Soriano to achieve a higher degree of social and economic development in accordance with the population growth of the past few years.

He also pointed out the need to expand specialized ambulance service for the rapid transportation of seriously ill people, since adult medical attention is only available at the (Ambrosio Brillo) Hospital located 22 km away on the Central Highway in the direction of Santiago de Cuba.

Later, after traveling along Marti Avenue, the main artery of the city, Fidel left Palma leaving a permanent memory with all those who saw him and cheered him the same way they did 25 years ago.

VIETNAMESE SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA MONTH NOTED

FL282044 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Solidarity With Cuba Month began today in Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital, with a scientific forum at that city's Institute of History and the local press is publishing articles about the Cuban revolution.

At the scientific forum, nine reports on the achievements of the Caribbean island over the last quarter century were analyzed. That analysis was carried out by more than 50 participating specialists.

Meanwhile, the Vietnamese newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN published an article on the eastern region of Cuba, the cradle of our emancipating revolution, in which the guerrilla struggle in the Sierra Maestra under the direction of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is recalled.

Also, the daily HANOI MOI published a geographic sketch of the Antillean island as a part of the solidarity activities, which will end on 2 January.

BRIEFS

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES AMBASSADORS -- This morning Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received in solemn audience Messrs (Wang Kin), (Daniel Antonio), and (Muhammad Abduh Asi Salam), who presented their credentials accrediting them as ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC, the People's Republic of Mozambique, and the Yemen Arab Republic, respectively. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca attended the ceremonies. [Summary] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Dec 83 FL]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO USSR -- The new Cuban ambassador to the Soviet Union, Lionel Soto, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat, arrived in Moscow today. At the airport he was welcomed by representatives of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Soviet capital. Lionel Soto will present his credentials to the USSR leadership in a few days. [Text] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Dec 83 FL]

JORGE BLANCO CALLS FOR FAITH IN NATION'S DESTINY

FL281754 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 20 Dec 83 p 1

[By R. Rodriguez Gomez]

[Excerpts] President Jorge Blanco sent a fervent call last night to the Dominican people telling them to have faith in the destiny of the nation. The president also hoped that in the coming year Dominicans would be able to better the current situation. However, Jorge Blanco remarked that in order to attain this improvement "cooperation and agreement is needed between the public and private sectors."

The president was interviewed last night by reporters at the National Palace where he gave a party for the employees of Government House. Jorge Blanco told reporters: "Taking advantage of this opportunity -- you who have lived here with me at the palace and who have traveled with me -- I ask you to transmit to the Dominican people a message of faith, faith not only in the national destiny but also in we who govern this nation; this nation which is steadily emerging, trying to find its own strengths and resources as well as upholding both liberty and democracy."

BRIEFS

INFORMATION DIRECTORATE CREATED -- Under Decree No 1,507 President Salvador Jorge Blanco yesterday created the General Directorate for Information, Publicity, and Press of the Presidency, which has been charged with implementing national policy regarding information, publicity, and press that pertains to the state. This directorate will be under the control of the Secretariat of State of the Presidency. Under Decree No 1,508 Jose Cabrera has been named director general of the new agency and he will thus become a member of the Council of Government; Ramon A. Reyes has been named director for press and international agencies; and Ramon de Luna has been named director for broadcasting of the presidency. Under Decree No 1,509 Luis Gonzalez Fabra has been named the executive branch's public relations officer and he will also become a member of the Council of Government. Under Decree No 1,511 journalist Marino Mendoza has been named director general of Dominican Radio and Television, replacing Aglisberto Melendez. [Summary] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Oct 83 p 1, 13 FL]

GRENADA

SCOON APPOINTS CHASTEAU SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

FL282328 Bridgetown CANA in English 2325 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Grenada's Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon has appointed deputy High Court registrar, Roy Carlton Chasteau, as the island's new supervisor of elections, it has been officially announced. Chasteau, 48, a lawyer, will take up the new post on January 3. His task will be to lay the groundwork for general elections next year to return Grenada to elected rule after five years of left-wing revolution. It will be the first poll here since 1976.

One of Chasteau's first jobs will be compilation of a voter registration list. He said today March 1 was the target date for the start of the exercise.

Chasteau is also expected to visit Barbados shortly. He will hold discussions with electoral officials in Bridgetown who will help in the compilation of the voters list.

Pardons Four Convicted in Bombing

FL282340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2326 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Four Grenadians, sentenced to death for the 1980 Queens Park bomb blast murders, have been granted a "free and unconditional pardon" by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE reported.

Grace Augustine, Russel Budhlall, Kenneth Budhlall, and Layne Phillip were sentenced to be hanged last November when, after a trial which lasted nearly two weeks, Justice Satrohan Singh found them guilty of having placed a bomb under the speaker's platform at Queens Park, just outside St George's, during a rally sponsored by the former People's Revolutionary Government.

When the bomb exploded Sir Paul, the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and ranking members of the PRG were on the platform but were unhurt. However, many persons under the platform were injured and two girls, Laurine Charles, 13, and Laurice Humphrey, 23, were killed on the spot. Another girl, Bernadette Bailey, 15, died days later of injuries received in the blast.

The terrorism (prevention) law 1980, under which the trial was conducted, was enacted by the PRG in 1980, nearly four months after the "bomb blast" murders, and given unlimited retroactive effect.

BRATHWAITE CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST COUPISTS

FL282316 Bridgetown CANA in English 2125 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Head of Grenada's six-week-old interim government Nicholas Brathwaite has issued a call for action to be taken against those persons involved in October's violent military coup. "We call on the investigating team and the legal department to ensure that the instigators and perpetrators are brought to trial as speedily as possible," he said in a broadcast.

About 40 people are said to be detained at the top security Richmond Hill Prison in the aftermath of the October 25 U.S.-led invasion of the island that ousted the Army leaders. Among those in detention are ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis, former government ministers Christopher de Riggs and Selwyn Strachan, and the 16-man short-lived military junta.

Brathwaite, in his first public comment to the nation on the issue, described the October 19 Army "massacre" at Fort Rupert as madness and unprecedented in the history of the country. He said the behaviour of those persons who were responsible for firing into the crowd on October 19 was "similar to that of savages rather than that of normal human beings." The interim government, he said, which is known officially as an Advisory Council, would like to record its sorrow to all those who lost their loved ones in the shooting hail of bullets fired by soldiers of the now disbanded People's Revolutionary Army (PRA).

An unknown number of people, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, died in the coup. Estimates have put the dead as high as 100.

SOLDIERS FIND MORE GUNS; NO CHARGES FILED

FL282228 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Two more guns have been discovered by Caribbean Peacekeeping Force soldiers in an occupied house in the Grenadian capital, a high-ranking soldier said. According to Major John Barnette of the Caribbean Peacekeeping Force, the weapons -- an AK-47 automatic rifle and a Sterling submachine gun -- were picked up yesterday afternoon in the St George's residential area.

Mrjor Barnette said the combined Caribbean Peacekeeping Force team and members of the United States Military Police who carried out the search at the house were acting on information received from the public. Police said today that no arrests had been made in connection with the recovery of the arms.

Between December 1 and today 67 AK rifles, 16 AKMS, 4 SKS-M52, 26 pistols, and two submachine guns have been found by security officials.

Grenada was invaded by a United States-led multinational force on October 19 that toppled a military junta which had seized power six days earlier in a bloody coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several colleagues were killed.

HAVANA ON SOVIET NEWSPAPER REMARK ON GRENADA

PA241825 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] According to the Saturday issue of KRASNYA ZVEZDA, the United States is carrying out psychological warfare against the Grenadian people in order to justify its infamous attack on the Caribbean island and discredit the government of slain Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The newspaper stated that to carry out this psychological warfare the United States is using the newspaper VOICE OF GRENADA published in St George's, and a radio station that was opened the day after the invasion and which supports its propaganda work with cars carrying loudspeakers spreading deceitful messages in English and Spanish.

In Montreal, a group of Canadians who visited St George's recently said that after 2 months of military occupation in Grenada, the U.S. forces and Governor General Paul Scoon have been unable to form an effective government for the island, where economic and administrative chaos is rampant.

HAITI

OPPOSITION LEADER CLAUDE RELEASED FROM PRISON

FL281203 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Haitian opposition leader Silvio Claude was released from jail on Christmas Eve after being held for 2 and 1/2 months. Mr Claude's family confirmed his release. He was arrested last October, but no official reason was given for his detention. He is the founder and leader of Haiti's opposition party and an opponent of the Duvalier regime. He was previously jailed in 1980 for nearly 2 years for what was termed breaching state security.

PPP ON UNITY GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY, ELECTIONS

FL281653 Bridgetown CANA in English 1526 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has again said there is an urgent need to establish a broad-based unity government to tackle the country's economic problems. The PPP said its position on a National Patriotic Front (NPF) government was reaffirmed at a meeting earlier this month of its Central Committee.

"The party viewed with deep concern the economic crisis and the central government's tardiness in unveiling an emergency contingency plan alternative to the draconian International Monetary Fund prescriptions which, if implemented, would lead to further disasters in the economic and social spheres," the PPP statement said. The opposition party said it is willing to approach the vital question of a political solution with statesmanship, principle, and a strong concern for the worsening plight of the Guyanese people and the country's economy.

"On the issue of elections, the Central Committee concluded that although the PPP can win a clear and comfortable majority at the polls in free and fair elections, the party is still determined to reject the winner take all principle and, as enshrined in its national patriotic front proposals, it is prepared to share power with political forces subscribing to a program reflecting the wishes of the people," the statement said. The PPP said the NPF is the prime vehicle to unite the nation and will allow the country to stand up unitedly against imperialism with "one powerful voice and an invincible determination never to yield sovereignty or commitment to an anti-imperialist course of development."

1983 SUGAR PRODUCTION ESTIMATED AT 250,000 TONS

FL281645 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Chairman of the state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO), Harold Davis, has said it appears that the country's sugar output for 1983 will be just over 250,000 tons -- a 30,000 shortfall on the official revised 280,000 ton target. In a message to the industry's 28,000 workers, Davis urged them to use this year's experience as a lesson for the future and to "look at the situation in totality and...identify our various areas of strengths and weaknesses."

"Having so identified those areas, we must work assiduously at maintaining and improving on those strong areas while simultaneously working towards eliminating those factors which hinder our progress towards prosperity," the GUYSUCO chairman said. Sugar is Guyana's number two foreign exchange earner. The industry's first production target for the year was 300,000 tons, but it was scaled down to 280,000 tons. Last year the industry produced 287,725 tons, and ended operations with a deficit of 93.1 million dollars (1 Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.). Davis said this year's projected output was "not particularly satisfactory."

Fishing Industry Earnings Reported

FL281656 Bridgetown CANA in English 1551 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 28 (CANA) -- Guyana's fishing industry earned the country 89 million dollars (G) (1 Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.) in foreign exchange in 1982, the annual report of the Ministry of Agriculture said. During 1982 the country's fishing fleet, comprising 123 vessels, 93 of which belonged to privately-owned companies harvested 1,796 tons of fish and 3,742 tons of shrimp. Small fishermen landed 21,557 tons of fish and an undetermined amount of small shrimp, the report said.

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES -- The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation has reported that with the incorporation of the (Charapa) oil field into its production network, the firm's production has increased to 27,500 barrels per day. This is the last of five fields that the state enterprise has incorporated between October 1982 and December 1983. The other four are (Chubara), (Secoya), (Chuchuqui), and Pichincha oil fields. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Dec 83 PA]

MEXICO

BRIEFS

FOREIGN TRADE COMMISSION -- Yesterday the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat announced the creation of the Mixed Commission for Foreign Trade Policy [Comision Mixta de Politica de Comercio Exterior -- COMPEX]. It explained that the main objective will be the coordination of actions taken by the public, private, and social sectors with regard to the goals listed in the National Development Plan. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Dec 83 p 7 PA]

FOREIGN BANK SUPPORT -- Representatives of 120 foreign banks went to the Los Pinos official residence last night to express their support to President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado for the Program for the Immediate Reorganization of the Economy. They said that they are certain that Mexico will continue advancing in its development plans. Frank Westermann, representative of the Deutsche Sudamericanishe Bank spoke on behalf of the other bank representatives. He praised the favorable aspects of the Mexican economic policy, particularly the reduction of the budget deficit to the planned level and the fact that the trade balance switched from a deficit to a surplus of approximately $11 billion. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Dec 83 p 9 PA]

INFLATION FIGURES -- By the end of 1983, inflation will reach 81 percent, "substantially higher than expected in January (67 percent)," the National Bank of Mexico, BANAMEX, has announced. According to its analysts, BANAMEX expects a similar increase in inflation for 1984, and the rates for goods and services provided by the government. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 10 Dec 83 1, 12 PA]

PANAMA

BRIEFS

NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT -- A group of citizens have formed the so-called Independent Opposition Movement (Movimiento Independiente de Oposicion -- MIO) aimed at democratizing the country, replacing the military regime and restoring the state of law. In its first manifest to the country, the MIO fiercely attacks the National Defense Forces and scores those who are claiming to be oppositionists for personal gain. [Summary] [Panama City YA in Spanish 20 Dec 83 p 6 PA]